

Somali kidnappers free aid worker

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali hostage-takers have freed French aid worker Rudy Maroq, held captive for 37 days, U.N. and European Union (EU) officials said here Sunday, in a move seen as encouraging for aid agencies planning to stay after U.N. troops pull out in March.

Mr. Maroq, 24, an employee of the French aid agency International Action Against Famine (AICF), was freed late Saturday and spent the night in the new U.N. headquarters at Mogadishu airport before being flown to Nairobi early Sunday on board a World Food Programme flight.

AICF officials insisted that no ransom was paid for the release of the aid agency worker who was in good health and had been well treated, building up a strong rapport with his captors.

"My conditions in detention were good," Mr. Maroq said on arrival in Nairobi. "I was well treated, properly fed with noodles and fish. They (the kidnappers) got me drinking water every day."

"I changed house four times and was kept locked up in a room each time. I had a mattress and towards the end I even had a bed: Unbelievable luxury."

In Mogadishu, the kidnappers were also allowed to go free and two of them, Hassan Warsame and Slad Khalif Qul Qul, backed Maroq's reports telling AFP here that their hostage was "a man of strong moral discipline... A brave young man who could adjust himself to any sort of life."

Observers in Mogadishu fear a renewal of fighting between groups led by Mohammed Ali Aided and his rival Ali Madhi Mohammed when U.N. troops complete their March withdrawal, but said Sunday the Frenchman's release could be a sign that faction fighters were coming under greater control.

U.N. and aid agency officials, delighted by the release, claimed it had happened as a direct result of their announcement last week that they were suspending all but emergency operations in Mogadishu until Mr. Maroq was freed.

"It worked. The kidnappers were put under heavy pressure by the Somalis and they had to give in," said a delighted Fernando Zamuso, the Italian director of the World Food Programme in Somalia.

Jean-Luc Bodin, head of AICF operations, agreed: "The pressure worked. The kidnappers gave in. It's great for the future of Somalia," he said.

Warlord Aided, who controls much of southern Mogadishu, also applied pressure for Mr. Maroq's release but Mr. Zamuso said he did not know how much success this had had.

More pressure was applied by clan leaders.



SUICIDE BLASTS: Plastic covered bodies lie on the ground where police experts examine the scene of a bombing in the Beit Lid junction Sunday where two bombs exploded (see page one) (AFP photo)

European, N. African ministers announce security accord

TUNIS (R) — Security ministers from four European countries and two North African states have pledged to intensify efforts to fight Muslim fundamentalist violence.

Even as they deliberated, Muslim militants shot dead the president of Algeria's football federation as he left his Algiers home, the official APS news agency reported.

France's Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Italy's Antonio Di Pietro, Portugal's Manuel Dias Loureiro, Spain's Secretary of State for the Interior Margarita Robles, Algerian Interior Minister Abdel Rahman Meziane Cherif, and Tunisia's Abdullah Kallel attended the meeting.

"The ministers... solemnly and firmly condemned terrorism, fundamentalism and every form of extremism and fanaticism and appeal for an end of violence because only civil peace will allow economic and social development," a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

The ministers said they have "decided to increase the exchange of information and their cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels, to fight the various forms of crimes, increasingly linked to terrorism and fundamentalism," it said.

"There is a necessity for us to have a comprehensive approach to these problems," Mr. Pasqua said.

"The results are extremely positive, because it is the first time four European ministers and two Maghreb states have agreed to together condemn terrorism, fundamentalism and fanaticism," Mr. Cherif told Reuters.

In Algeria, violence pitting army-backed authorities against Muslim fundamentalists has raged for three years, killing up to 30,000 people since the authorities canceled an election in 1992 that fundamentalists had been poised to win.

On Saturday, the APS news agency said football federation chief Rachid Haraghe, 58, married with two children, died shortly after being shot. Algerian Radio said he had been building up "the sports movement as a rampart against terrorism."

In a separate dispatch, APS said security forces had killed 20 Muslim guerrillas in a week-long sweep.

Western European countries worry that violence in North Africa could spread to them.

France, which fears a fundamentalist threat within its Muslim community of about 4.5 million people, and Spain last year said they would step up security controls and border checks to counter Muslim guerrillas.

France and Algeria were both involved in the hijack of a French airliner by the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), the most violent of Algeria's rebel groups. French commandos stormed the aircraft in Marseille, killing the four hijackers and freeing the passengers.

Tunisia crushed its fundamentalist movement in 1991, and has since urged European countries, especially France and Britain, to extradite their exiled fundamentalist activists.

Morocco is reported to have 30 active fundamentalist groups. This month the trial started in the city of Fez of 18 alleged fundamentalists, six of them carrying French passports, who are accused of carrying out attacks, including one in which two Spanish tourists were killed.

Morocco, invited to the Tunis meeting, dubbed "4+2," did not take part, to the surprise of diplomats.

In Rabat, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the Moroccan news agency MAP said that Morocco was not participating. He did not elaborate.

The talks went ahead as "4+2."

Kurds say mediation failing

ANKARA (Agencies) — Peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurdish groups who have shelled each other in recent days are faltering over control of a key city, Iraqi Kurdish sources said on Sunday.

"Negotiations are not going well, in fact there is tension," Shazad Saib, the Ankara representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said.

Minor clashes between the PUK and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) broke out on Friday around the northern Iraqi towns of Sadiq and Shanayir, near the Iranian border, and Gomasan, further west, Mr. Saib said.

"There were artillery exchanges near Gomasan but the fighting wasn't very important," he said. Mr. Saib could give no casualty figures.

He said a 60-member committee, made up of PUK and KDP delegates was trying to persuade the factions' leaders to declare a ceasefire.

Mr. Saib said the PUK was prepared to meet a KDP demand that it withdraw from Erbil but would not hand the city over to its rival.

"We are willing to pull out of Erbil but we want to give it to the local police force and not the KDP," he said.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, and the KDP of Massoud Barzani have shared power in northern Iraq since a 1992 election.

The rival groups have clashed frequently in and around Erbil, the seat of Kurdish power in northern Iraq, in the last year. The latest round of fighting began in mid-December.

The Kurds set up a regional government in Erbil after breaking away from Baghdad's authority following the Gulf war in 1991. They are protected from Iraqi government forces by a Western allied air force based in southern Turkey.

KDP radio, meanwhile, charged that PUK forces were shelling Suleimaniya in northeastern Iraq, killing civilians and damaging homes.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Saturday urged the warring Kurds to accept President Saddam Hussein's offer to mediate.

Armed guards ride train to Egypt's tourist sites

ON BOARD TRAIN 84, Egypt (AFP) — Tourist train number 84 reached to pull out of Cairo station under tight security, as it does every night for its 900-kilometre journey south.

Armed policemen, many with dogs, patrolled the platforms as tourists slipped past the guards and the bustling crowds loaded down with string-tied suitcases and boxes of ducking chickens.

Egyptians had to show their tickets and some were searched.

The trip from Cairo to Aswan in Upper Egypt costs around \$85, about the same as a plane ticket, for a night's accommodation complete with dinner in an atmosphere reminiscent of the Orient Express.

Alcoholic drinks flow liberally on the train run by the Compagnie Francaise des Wagons-Lits.

A normal train fare costs \$15, but most are off-limits to tourists for security reasons.

Stewards were posted at the front of each carriage, police inspected compartments and the train left accompanied by guards armed with assault rifles in engine rooms at the front and the back.

The 15-hour journey passes through the heartland of Muslim militants, who have been campaigning to topple the government since March 1992 in a bloody conflict which has left almost 600 dead, including 12 tourists.

Earlier in January, the very same train was attacked just north of Luxor and two Argentine tourists and four Egyptians were wounded.

But the tight security a week later surprised many of the 140 passengers, including 80 tourists, mostly Russians and Argentines, seated in separate compartments from the rest of the train.

"It frightens me," said 68-year-old American Betty Graham, but one Australian woman who did not want to be named found it reassuring.

Tecan Michelle Ewart, 29, said: "I wrote my will before leaving."

But none of those questioned had been told of the dangers by their travel agency, even though many embassies in Cairo warn their nationals not to journey to Upper Egypt by road or train.

One U.S. tourist was surprised it stopped again first in Asyut, 400 kilometres down the line and a former militant stronghold, and then in Qena, 200 kilometres further south.

From there it sped on towards Luxor passing swiftly through the area where trains have been the target of attack, most of them claimed by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

So far one person has died and 40 were wounded in attacks on Train 84, 10 of them tourists.

At the end of December a policeman was killed when militants boarded the train, changing their usual pattern of firing at it from below with automatic weapons before fleeing into the dense cover of nearby sugar-cane fields.

"We are waiting to die," said one fatalistic steward.

But this time, the journey was completed without anything more serious than a blocked door between two carriages.

Egyptian police kill new Gamaa Al Islamiyah chief

CAIRO (AFP) — Police shot and killed the new head of the outlawed fundamentalist Gamaa Islamiyah group in southern Egypt on Sunday as the death toll in three years of unrest rose to more than 600, police said.

Mahmoud Selim, 29, because Gamaa leader after police killed former chiefs Talaat Yassin Hammam in April and Hassan Abdul Galil in October, they added.

Selim, a former teacher who had been hunted by police for years, was shot dead along with his bodyguard Taleb Bakht Betouhi in a gunbattle in the southern Egyptian town of Sohag, 500 kilometres south of Cairo.

"Mahmoud Selim was the main terrorist leader and police were hunting him for years for having organised and carried out 36 attacks throughout Egypt since 1992," police said.

"He was the mastermind of the terrorist Gamaa Islamiyah and gave orders to carry out attacks throughout Egypt."

"He carried out dozens of terrorist crimes and was responsible for most attacks in Upper Egypt, in Assiut, Sohag and Qena."

Police also said they arrested Gamaa's military chief in Sohag, Abdul Fatah Abu Deif, and 37 other militants.

The double shooting raised to 604 the death toll since March 1992 when Islamic militants launched a campaign of violence to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

"It was one of the most important anti-terrorist operations in the last several months because they were very dangerous elements," police said.

The galloping bozkhashi horsemen of northern Afghanistan

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (AFP) — A chunk of meat the size of a fillet steak came flying out of the melee to be snatched up by a fleet-footed Afghan youth who had dashed out of the cheering crowd.

The meat had been ripped from a decapitated animal carcass lying beneath the stamping hooves of thirty horses, as riders leaned low in their saddles trying to snatch the macabre prize from the ground.

This was a difficult task because the horses reared and rammed into each other as the riders, dressed in fur caps, padded overcoats and knee-high leather boots, slashed with whips and bludgeoned each other with their elbows.

A cross between polo and a gladiator combat, the Afghan winter sport of bozkhashi literally means "goat-grabbing," although calves, some weighing up to 50 kilograms, are more commonly used.

The object of the game is to pluck the headless calf from a circle painted on the ground, cut through a throng of some 200 mounted novices hanging out on the periphery of the main players, and ride like fury to a distant flag, then return and drop the calf in the circle again.

Played by the Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkomans of northern Afghanistan, bozkhashi is a cultural relic of ancient nomadic ancestors, who some say preferred live prisoners-of-war to dead animals for the sport.

The game sounds simple enough but it is very dangerous to play and requires great skill to "score a goal" for although Afghans pretend bozkhashi is played by two teams, most players scorn the benefits of group cooperation for the greater glory of solo victory.

In true Afghan tradition, personal competition is fierce, and the only true team-work in bozkhashi is between the master-players — called chapandaz — and their specially trained horses, which are valued as high as \$15,000 each.

One of the horsemen broke free from the mob with the calf wedged under his leg and dashed at full gallop across the open plain towards the flag as challengers followed in hot pursuit.

Whips in mouths and steering their mounts by their stirrups, two riders each fought with both hands in a tug-of-war for possession of the calf, until one broke free, wheeled around the flag and charged back to the circle to drop the carcass.

The judges passed over wads of cash prize-money as a herald bawled the winner's name out loud and other players, who perhaps rode interference for the winner, crowded in to claim a share of the money.

Children peddled locally-made popcorn and smuggled Afghan cigarettes as the bozkhashi sponsor announced a new prize.

stalling the frenzy all over again and continuing until the carcass was reduced to a ragged fleshless pelt.

Bozkhashi was often used as a metaphor to describe the cold war struggle between the superpowers in which Afghanistan itself was the contested prize.

But sadly, long after the Soviet Red Army and the defeat of the Afghan communists, the imagery is still appropriate.

In April 1992 the mujahedeen captured Kabul but competing factions are still engaged in a bloody struggle for absolute power.

If the current grab for Kabul proves as difficult as bozkhashi, then the capital faces the same fate as the carcass — total annihilation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE reports 15 marine accidents

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Tanker collisions and leaks from oil terminals caused 15 marine pollution accidents in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1994, an official report said on Saturday. The worst accident occurred in March off the eastern port of Fujairah, when nearly 15,000 tonnes of crude spilled into the Gulf Ocean after two tankers collided, the report by the coastguard authorities said.

Other accidents involved damage to oil pipelines and loading terminals but were not serious, the report said. Six accidents occurred in Dubai, five in Abu Dhabi and the rest in the other five emirates. The report made no mention of daily dumping of sludge and other waste by tankers cleaning their oil storage tanks.

Saddam uses a double — Sunday Times

LONDON (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein employs a double to avoid being assassinated during public appearances, The Sunday Times reported. The paper said the double whose real name was Fawaz Al Emari had been given plastic surgery to make him look even more like the Iraqi leader. The Sunday Times carried on its front page a photograph widely published two years ago purporting to show President Saddam bathing in the Tigris River. The legend underneath the photo said: "Guess who? No, it's not Saddam Hussein." The paper's report said: "The first confirmation of what had previously only been suspected comes from an army officer who was himself forced to act as the double for Uday," the Iraqi leader's eldest son. Latif Yahia acted as Uday's double for four years before managing to escape from Iraq and flee to Vienna where he obtained political asylum, the report said. Mr. Yahia was quoted as saying that President Saddam's first double was killed in 1984 when a car-bomb exploded as the double was travelling in a car from Baghdad to Tikrit, President's birthplace.

Freed Briton flown to Pakistan

KABUL (AFP) — British national Eden Fernandez who was held captive by an Afghan Shiite faction in west Kabul for eight months was flown out of Afghanistan on a special Red Cross flight Sunday. "We were requested by British diplomats present in Kabul to fly Fernandez out of Afghanistan which we gladly accepted on humanitarian grounds," said Peter Stocker, Kabul chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mr. Fernandez was released Saturday by the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction leader Abdul Ali Mazari into the custody of Pakistan-based British diplomat Stephen Evans.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Cocottes Minutes
17:30	Que Le Mielleur Gagne
18:00	Gemination Sensation
18:30	Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants
19:00	News In French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	Boogies Diner
20:00	Black Beauty
20:30	Street Hawk
21:00	Shades of L.A.
22:00	News In English
22:30	Louisiana
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:37	(Sunrise) Duha
11:07	Dhuhr
14:30	'Asr
17:00	Maghrib
18:20	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidat, Tel. 810740	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Nova Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiut International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684193	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will be moderate with skies partly cloudy to sunny, and winds southeasterly light to moderate. In Amman, it will be warm with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	3/11
Agaba	7/19
Dezura	1/17
Jordan Valley	7/19

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	661111
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630231
Hotel Complaints	608000
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Repairs	621020
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hassan Masmour	750197
Dr. Raneh Zetoun	888065
Dr. Farouq Nour	786080
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh	881148
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferrows pharmacy	783336
Al Asena pharmacy	637025
Nairoukh pharmacy	636772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	625772
Najit pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Ouzari	772032
Alqada pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Widad Al Hijwaji	981217
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Bek Maternity, J. Amn	644412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestina, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845945
Al-Musader Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Indian, Al-Musader	771103/3
Al-Bek, J. Ashraf	751112/6
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Aila Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Haram Modern Hospital	(09)990590
IRBID:	
Princess Beena Hospital	(02)223555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)222225
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:45	Khartoum (SD)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
12:35	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30	Hindalib (TY)
14:30	Kiev (UL)
17:05	Rome (AZ)
17:50	Paris (AF)
18:15	Dubai (EK)
22:10	London (BA)
01:10	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
10:45	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:20	Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:45	Dhahran (RJ)
19:45	Beirut, Dubai (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:25	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30	Damascus (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:40	Istanbul (TK)
08:15	Beirut (ME)
08:30	Cairo (MS)
13:30	Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00	Khartoum (SD)
15:00	Sana'a (TY)
15:30	Kiev (UL)
19:15	Dubai (EK)
02:20	Amsterdam (KL)
02:35	London (BA)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday	
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in file per kg.	
Apple	700/300
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	180/100
Carrot	230/140
Cauliflower	130/70
Cucumbers (large)	200/100
Cucumbers (small)	420/280
Eggplant	320/200
Garlic	850/500
Grape Fruit	270/180
Lemon	300/180
Marrow (large)	150/120
Marrow (small)	300/180
Onion (green)	380/200
Onion (dry)	320/240
Orange	200/500
Pepper (hot)	420/280
Pepper (sweet)	420/280
Potato	320/200
Radish	180/100
Spinach	150/100
String Beans	900/400
Tomato	330/150

Is ride train
urist sites

separate compartments for
the rest of the train.
"It frightens me," said
year-old American
woman who did not want
be named found it reason-
able. "I wrote my will be-
fore leaving."

But none of those
mentioned had been told of
the dangers by their travel
agencies in Cairo where the
personals not to journey
Upper Egypt by road.

One U.S. tourist was
prised the train was
shortly afterwards at the
saying she had been as-
saulted on the train.

But later as the tour
stepped it stopped again for
Asyut, 400 kilometers from
the line and a former site
stronghold, and then
Qena, 200 kilometers from
South.

From there it sped on
wards Luxor passing
through the area where
have been the largest
attacks most of them
by the outlawed Al Gama
Al Islamiyah.

So far one person has
died and two were wounded
attacks on Train No. 11
from Luxor.

At the end of December
police were killed as
passengers boarded the train
changing their usual pace
of travel as it from below
automatic weapons fire.
Several people were killed
and many more were
injured.

We are waiting for
the train to stop.
But this time, the train
was stopped without
any warning. Several
people were killed and
many more were injured.

But this time, the train
was stopped without
any warning. Several
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many more were injured.

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Home News

Queen receives 'International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Jordan Saturday night from a working visit to the United States, a Royal Court statement said Sunday.

At a ceremony at the United Nations on Friday, the National Organisation of Arab-American Women (NOAAAW) presented the Queen with the "International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace." United Nations Fund for Popular Activities (UNFPA) Director-General Nafis Sadik, represented the U.N. secretary general at the ceremony, which was also attended by several government officials, heads and members of diplomatic missions and prominent members of the Arab-American community.

In her address at the United Nations, Queen Noor reviewed some of the possibilities Jordan envisages for the emerging Middle East and emphasised the "increasingly relevant role of women and of organisations such as... (NOAAAW) to our (the Kingdom's) quest for a new society in this era of transformation," the Royal Court statement said.

Speaking of the Arab World, the Queen said: "We must reassess our past differences and look towards reinforcing national achievements and strengths with the immeasurable greater forces of integration and economies of scale; and we must develop a common vision of our future based on our shared history and strong cultural bonds."

According to the statement, Queen Noor added that "The new Middle East that we seek to pass on to our children offers the promise of peace, development and stability. But it is impossible to speak credibly of these without speaking of social justice, political participation and fundamental human rights. Our countries face the common challenge to mobilise the talents and energies of all their members to achieve economic and political development that is sustainable, equitable and responsive to real needs."

Speaking of the role of Arab women, Queen Noor, according to the statement, said that "While in all Arab societies, women still face varying degrees of legal and social obstacles to their personal development, professional fulfillment and participation in public and political life, large numbers of women have nevertheless contributed to and benefited from the development momentum of recent decades. Unlike their prevalent portrayal in the West, many Arab women are educated, deeply involved in family and local community decisions, and increasingly active in political, professional and economic life at the national level. The rising level of education of Arab girls and women has been one of the most profound and positive forces of change in our region."

Queen Noor added that "The world now has an exciting and historic opportunity to work together for human development goals which are deeply rooted in a common moral legacy of justice, humanism and peace."

The statement said the Queen expressed her concern that the "new momentum of hope and cooperation is threatened by disquieting predictions, appearing in the



discourse of Western analysts, of an inevitable and violent clash of cultures, particularly between the Islamic and Western worlds. At this moment of global change and hope, it would be a great tragedy and a tremendous waste to allow the ideological polarisation that characterised the cold war era to be replaced by a civilisational confrontation, based on ignorance and unfounded fears."

According to the statement, the Queen emphasised the role of individuals throughout the world and of international organisations in the establishment of a meaningful and constructive dialogue between the Western and Arab/Islamic worlds and in the promotion of better cross-cultural understanding.

The National Organisation of Arab-American Women is a non-profit organisation established in 1992 to promote the interests of Arab and Arab-American women in the United States, and to increase their visibility and influence in American political, social, economic and academic circles.

The organisation supports educational and training activities for Arab women in the Middle East and assists them in their efforts to achieve economic, political and social advancement.

NOAAAW also serves as a focal point for the involvement of Arabs and Arab-Americans in activities that enhance opportunities for women.

'Developed countries should lift restraints on imports from developing countries'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday called for the lifting of what he said were conditions and restraints imposed by developed countries on imports from the developing world despite preferential trade agreements.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, addressing the opening session of a three-day seminar on how Jordan could benefit from international trade agreements, said the government was also exerting efforts to increase Jordan's exports and help local industries increase output.

"Jordan is reviewing its economic policies, and this seminar is of key importance to the country," Mr. Abul Ragheb said, noting that the gathering was dedicated to discussing the requirements and procedures related to exports under preferential trade agreements such as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and others.

"At a time when export promotion is a policy of most governments, and the private sector is assuming increased interest in opportunities, we find that developed countries are attaching some limitations and conditions to imports from developing countries," Mr. Abul Ragheb said. These include criteria or origin, local industrial input and other parameters as well as exclusion of some products, he noted.

"The GSP scheme has not achieved its goals," said the minister. "If the GSP goals were to be achieved, then all restrictions and limitations imposed by the developed countries on imports from the developing countries should be removed."

Mr. Abul Ragheb said as well as other speakers at the seminar noted that Jordan's industrial base was relatively small and exports from the Kingdom did not pose any threat to developing countries.

GSP is a preferential trade system under which developed countries give customs-duty treatment to imports from developing countries without any reciprocal action. But most of the



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday presides over a national seminar on the Generalised System of Preferences and other trade laws and market access conditions to Jordanian exports (Petra photo)

developing countries signatory to the accord insist on the exporters meeting what is widely seen as an ever-increasing list of requirements.

The seminar that opened Sunday at the Amman Chamber of Industry is organised by the chamber in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). During the course of the three-day event, UNCTAD officials, European Union and U.S. representatives and local and foreign experts are scheduled to address the audience on the various aspects of international trade accords and how to implement them to the best of Jordan's advantage.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, told the opening session that the Jordanian government was actively engaged in efforts to promote exports and widen the Kingdom's industrial scope by helping the private sector.

As such, he said, detailed discussions on trade agreements and practices aimed at familiarising Jordanian exporters on how to use the accord would be much more beneficial to the private sector as well as the economy as a whole if it leads to higher exports.

"The seminar is an inseparable part of the efforts to advance the national economy," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said Japan, the United States and Europe exported \$1,907 million worth of goods to Jordan in 1993 while the Kingdom's exports to these countries were \$79 million. Europe alone exported goods worth \$1,083 million to Jordan in 1993, while taking in \$42 million in Jordanian exports, he said, calling for stepped up efforts at all levels to address the imbalance.

Teruo Ujje, UNCTAD coordinator on technical cooperation programmes on GSP and other trade laws, described the seminar as an important activity that would help Jordan's exporters.

"The active presence of experts from various organisations at this seminar is a clear reflection of their interest in providing technical cooperation as a means to assist your country to further its external trade sector," Mr. Ujje told the meeting.

"The utilisation of the various forms of preferential trade will assist your country to gain increased market access."

Diego Brasioli, charge d'affaires at the Italian embassy, noted that the deci-

Ministry to take steps to control numbers of higher education programme specialties

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to the country's acute unemployment problems, a proposed council for accreditation of Jordan's college faculties will play a role in future government policy of strict control over the number of university programmes in each academic specialty which would be allowed to operate in the Kingdom, as well as the number of students each faculty may admit, Minister of Higher Education Rabeab Saoud said Sunday.

"We will strictly control the output of graduates from universities in Jordan, both the public and the private ones," Dr. Saoud told the Jordan Times.

For example, because of the current profound overflow of engineering graduates into the local job market, "we can definitely say that we may close a certain number of engineering programmes in a certain number of universities," he explained. In addition to this, "we may grant certain faculties accreditation, but tell them you can only accept 30 students per year in this school."

The proposed committee,

currently referred to in official legal drafts as "The Association for Accreditation of Higher Education," and tentatively due to be finalised within two weeks, would work as a sub-council answerable to the Council of Higher Education and bring "a more serious approach" to official evaluation and rating of higher education programmes in Jordan, Dr. Saoud said.

For one, he explained, it would begin work in what he felt was a currently loose area by setting up in-depth accreditation programmes for public universities. Current standards for accrediting private universities would also be raised significantly, he added.

However, although Dr. Saoud did not lay out the exact roles the proposed committee would play in enforcing strict limits in numbers and student admissions of university departments per specialty field, due to the still unfinalised nature of the committee, this, for him, was "the most significant aspect" of its task.

Throughout the previous year, Dr. Saoud has repeatedly stated that stern measures were needed to curb overflows of graduates in cer-

tain specialties where current job market openings are scant or nonexistent. He also stressed the need to boost the number of faculties and students enrolled in other specialties which are undernourished in the Kingdom — and that Jordan's higher education sector must face the tough realities of the tight local job market and its limitations.

Experts have often noted that while unemployed graduates abound in some specialties, notable among them engineering and business administration, medium-level professional technicians and specialists, as well as skilled tradespeople, are badly needed by employers but often difficult to find.

Such experts have pointed to this poor conformity of university graduates to the actual demands of the labour market, as playing a substantial hand in Jordan's soaring unemployment rate — over 18 per cent as of 1993, according to Ministry of Labour statistics.

"We will have two future goals," said Dr. Saoud: "To insure that all students who do enter Jordanian universities have good scores on the

tawjihi, and to oblige other students" who choose to study in Jordan "to enter programmes such as applied professional studies in the community colleges."

Thus, he hoped, the coming classes of university and college graduates would be brought into greater conformity with the actual demands of the Kingdom's job market.

Meanwhile, Dr. Saoud said that greater attention to thorough evaluation of university programmes by the new accreditation committee would bring Jordan's higher education community more in line with international standards and policies at large. "In other countries, they are much tougher on their public universities than we are here," he noted.

As well, the committee's work would most likely involve the participation of "international experts from other Arab and foreign countries" to give their input into the evaluation programmes initiated by the committee, and into any final decisions taken by the committee on granting or withholding accreditation to individual university faculties.

Qaqish leaves today to take up post in Iraq

New envoy: ties with Iraq, Gulf not mutually exclusive

By Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to Iraq, Bassam Qaqish, has underlined that Jordan's pursuit to improve relations with Arab Gulf countries would in no way affect its good relations with Iraq.

Mr. Qaqish, who is leaving for Baghdad today to assume his post, said Jordan's relations with any single country would not affect its relations with any other country.

"Jordan's relations with Iraq, the Gulf countries or other Arab countries are not influenced by its relations with any Arab country," said Mr. Qaqish, a former minister of water and irrigation and inspector general of the Armed Forces.

"Jordan deals with Arab countries on the same footing and in accordance with international principles. In addition, these relations are governed by brotherly and historical ties," Mr. Qaqish said.

He emphasised that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has always been the first to underline the need to preserve good relations among Arab countries.

Mr. Qaqish emphasised that the Kingdom's call to end the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 was

not based on purely economic reasons, but rather on humanitarian and cultural reasons.

"The sanctions are not only preventing the entry of material to the country, but have led to other negative consequences, even in cultural fields," he said, expressing optimism that the sanctions would be lifted soon.

"By nature I am optimistic, and no doubt the siege will be eventually lifted. It is just a matter of time because really, the suffering of the Iraqi people is great; besides the sanctions are affecting Jordan as well," he said.

The ambassador voiced hope that the sanctions will be lifted, saying there were significant indications that the way Iraq is viewed at the regional and international levels is different from the way it was one or two years ago, especially after Iraq recognised its borders with Kuwait.

He said it was up to the U.N. to decide whether Iraq is in compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions issued during and after the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Qaqish welcomed initiatives, taken by France and some Arab countries to partially lift the sanctions. "These initiatives, whether taken by France or the United Arab Emirates, call for optimism that the sanctions will end soon," he said. "Ultimately nei-

ther we nor the international community nor any human being condones keeping a whole people under siege."

France last week decided to open an interests section at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad amid protests by the United States and Britain. Meanwhile, U.A.E. officials were urging Kuwait to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in New York earlier this month that he expected the sanctions to be partially lifted within a period of two months.

Jordan, Mr. Qaqish said, implements the resolutions as any other country, although it is one of the countries most affected by them.

The lifting of the sanctions regime will certainly have positive effects on the Jordanian and Iraqi economies, particularly since the Gulf of Aqaba has been the only port permitted to take in materials allowed by the sanctions for transport to Iraq, Mr. Qaqish said.

"Jordan has always called for discussing the issue logically to come up with comprehensive solutions, not partial ones, to emphasise good neighbourly relations and good inter-Arab, Arab-Islamic and Arab-international relations," Mr. Qaqish asserted.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty, is known for being the first on



more than one occasion to call for the use of reason not force, and dialogue not violence," the ambassador said.

He expressed confidence that all of the region's countries, including Iraq, will be included in any new regional order resulting from the Middle East peace process, saying King Hussein and his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have always reiterated that all the region's countries will be partners in actively contributing to planning and organising such an order.

Saying he feels "honoured" to be chosen for the post, Mr. Qaqish said he was eager to assume his duties in Baghdad.

Mr. Qaqish, a former army officer and minister of water and irrigation, said he expected full cooperation from the Iraqi government.

Mr. Qaqish will succeed Nasouh Al Majali, who will be serving as the Kingdom's ambassador to Canada.

Proposed national company to search for oil, gas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has finalised plans to establish a national oil and natural gas exploration company as well as a mining company in the Azraq region to search for other minerals, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh.

In a statement to the press Sunday, Mr. Darwazeh said the two companies are expected to be set up in three to four months.

Although optimistic about finding commercially feasible amounts of natural gas in

Britain to help Jordan combat drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the international assistance branch at the British Customs and Excise Department, now on a visit to Jordan, Sunday expressed his country's readiness to provide technical assistance to the Public Security Department (PSD) to help it combat drug trafficking.

Tom Matthews, who started a visit to the Kingdom Saturday, was speaking to PSD Director General Abdul Rahman Udwan with whom he discussed prospects for

State universities assign 10% enrolment to non-Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten per cent of the total number of seats at Jordanian state universities have been assigned for non-Jordanian students for the 1994-1995 academic year, according to the director of the Ministry of Higher Education's Non-Jordanian Students Department, Mohammad Kharabsheh.

Mr. Kharabsheh said, 1,000 students from Arab and Islamic countries were enrolled this year, raising to 4,361 the total number of non-Jordanian students now attending state universities.

Of the total, 1,100 are from Malaysia and 1,453 are from Palestine, Mr. Kharabsheh said.

Non-Jordanian Arab and Muslim students are enrolled at all major universities in the Kingdom.

According to Mr. Kharabsheh, the atmosphere of stability and security in Jordan and the certificate/diploma equivalency agreements attract students from various parts of the Arab and Muslim world.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Spanish jazz pianist Tele Moutolin at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Film (in French) entitled "Le Dernier Metro" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci (Part III) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khureit) at Darat Al Funun at 5:30 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Slide lecture (in German and Arabic) entitled "The German and Turkish Relations of Jaha" by Dr. Dieter Glade at the Association of Jordanian Writers at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Taleh at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

- ★ Plays (in Arabic) entitled "Jazirat Al

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhr Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.

Mis'in' (The Goat Island) and another one entitled "Khyar Karabek" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Clinton seeks to rally Democrats following rout

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton, seeking to rally his Democratic Party after its rout last fall, called Saturday for cooperation with Republicans as the party reorganises to plan for the 1996 elections.

Paraphrasing Mark Twain, the president quipped: "Reports of our demise are premature."

But Mr. Clinton said the Democrats should follow a strategy of working with the new majority where possible, while highlighting differences on matters of principle.

"There are many areas in which we can find agreement. We must be big enough to seek those areas," Mr. Clinton said at a meeting of the Democratic National Committee to install its new leadership.

Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut was sworn in as general chairman of the party while Don Fowler was named national chairman under a new structure proposed by Mr. Clinton.

The new hierarchy, similar to that used by Republicans, gives the Democrats a prominent, articulate national spokesman while leaving Mr. Fowler in charge of day-to-day management of the party.

"He (Dodd) is not afraid to fight," Mr. Clinton said. Mr. Dodd said meanwhile that the party must not dwell on its mistakes, which resulted in the election land-

slide Nov. 8 that gave Republicans control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

"The wake is over," Mr. Dodd said. "The period of mourning is behind us."

Under the new political landscape, the Republicans are expected to seek deep cuts in social programmes in a bid to reduce the size of government, in some cases dismantling programmes built up by Democratic administrations since the 1930s.

A poll released Saturday by U.S. News and World Report showed 54 per cent of respondents believed Mr. Clinton should cooperate with the new majority in Congress, while 35 per cent said he should fight for Democratic positions.

While Mr. Clinton called for cooperation, he suggested this would have limits.

"I don't believe government is inherently bad," he said.

Mr. Clinton and the newly reorganised party have nearly two years before the 1996 elections to reverse the party's fortunes in its bid to regain a congressional majority and maintain the White House.

This is a tall order, even though polls have shown a slight rise in Mr. Clinton's popularity despite his low profile in recent weeks.

Although Mr. Clinton is trying to portray himself as a moderate, Mr. Dodd is clearly from the liberal wing of the

party, which seems at odds with this new strategy.

But analysts say the choice of Mr. Dodd may be a smart one by solidifying the party's base among liberals.

"No matter where Bill Clinton claims he is moving, the Democratic Party is a liberal party in the United States. Clinton is not even in the ballgame if he cannot hold down his base," said Stephen Hess, a presidency scholar with the Brookings Institution.

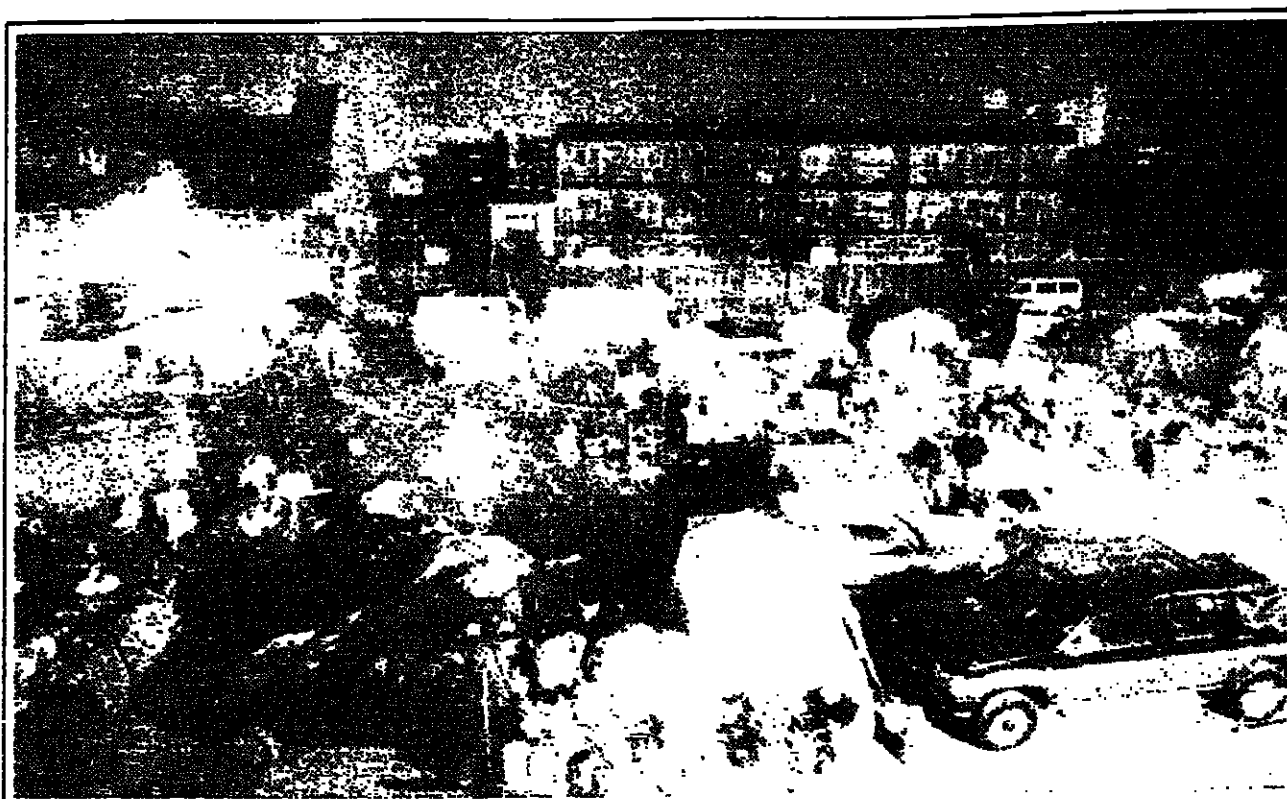
Quayle fit for nomination

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis former Vice President Dan Quayle said Saturday he expects to become a formal candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in mid-April, and despite two recent stays in hospital is in top health for the fight.

"In the coming weeks... I will be making some important decisions about the future... but I do want you to know this: My doctors told me 'you can go wherever you want, you can do whatever you want and you can say whatever you want'," he said in remarks prepared for delivery at a sales convention.

"My friends, I am back in the arena — and that's where I'm going to stay."

Before his speech, Mr. Quayle released a brief statement saying he planned to file a declaration of his candidacy with the Federal Election Commission by Feb. 21



Vehicles and tents form a new community Saturday for some of those left homeless from the Jan. 17 earthquake.

Many school playgrounds and public parks are now camping grounds for victims (AFP photo)

Grim day's work in Kobe for crew digging out collapsed apartment

KOBE, Japan (AP) — The wind was chilly, the sky was threatening, and the work was grim and dirty.

In the earthquake-ravaged centre of Kobe, what had been a nondescript seven-story apartment house was reduced to a pile of rubble.

Somewhere under tonnes of cement and steel were a dozen people. Workers hoped to find them alive but knew the odds were with death.

In two days of arduous digging, 15 people had been pulled out — only five of them alive.

"The situation is terrible, and it's going to get worse," said a crewman, a member of the self-defence force, one of thousands of troops dispatched to the scene of Tuesday's devastating quake.

"We're doing all we can, and we hope that there'll be more cases like the little boy we rescued last night," he said.

That little boy was one of the few bright spots in a bleak landscape. His name was Shinsuke Yamada. Nine years old, he was rescued nearly 60 hours after the quake.

He suffered some injuries

to his hands and face, but he was hospitalised in good condition. His mother was not so lucky. Rescue workers pulled her body from the rubble. His father was rescued alive.

The apartment house where they lived was built soon after the war. When standing, it housed a store on the ground floor, offices on the second, and 21 apartments.

Part of the building caught fire Tuesday following the quake, so the rescue effort did not get under way in earnest until the following day.

The apartment house's owner, Yoshiaki Yamaguchi, had been there every day since the quake, watching the workers dig.

"It's awful," he said. Four large cranes were being used to lift the rubble piece by piece, so as not to crush anyone pinned beneath. The cranes' pincers seized chunks of reinforced concrete and refrigerators.

As the rescuers dug, they occasionally came across valuables such as documents or jewelry. They would carry them carefully into a small lot designated as a morgue area for family members to claim.

Aya Koizumi, 20, went to high school with one of those trapped inside. She came to watch and pray.

"I hope he's still alive," she said. "There's still a chance they can save him."

Shohei Kamata was a college classmate of one of those buried in the building. He was living in another part of Japan when the quake hit but hurried home to check on friends and family.

"I saw lots of coverage of the earthquake on TV, so I've gotten used to the terrible scenes, but still it's a shock to see the actual thing," he said.

Yoshikazu Saito, a neighbour who is a mechanical engineer, patronises a dentist who had an office in building.

"If the quake had been two hours later, he would have been under that rubble," Mr. Saito said, adding that the dentist usually arrived for work at 7 a.m.

At mid-morning, there was a ripple of activity. The workers had found something.

The heavy equipment was called off. Army and police rescue workers moved in with shovels and pickaxes. They dug with those, and with their

hands. Forty minutes later, they brought out what turned out to be the first of three bodies.

Relatives standing by were red-eyed and tearful. Anger, exhaustion and frustration were beginning to take their toll.

When the bodies were found, tensions boiled over. Four young men, relatives of some of those trapped, became furious when they saw news photographers taking pictures of the dead being pulled from the rubble.

They attacked two AP photographers, kicking one and breaking the cameras of both.

"How can you take pictures of our dead while we're suffering?" they shouted.

The workers did what they could to shield the privacy of the dead. While some pulled out bodies, others held up blankets to block the view of bystanders.

The workers took the bodies to a makeshift morgue, a little empty lot with buildings on both sides with a blanket hung across it so people couldn't look inside. To one side of the entryway lay a bunch of flowers.

China, Taiwan open new round of talks

BEIJING (AFP) — China and Taiwan began five days of talks here Sunday aimed at reaching agreements on repatriating mainland plane hijackers and settling differences over fishing and illegal immigration.

The latest round between the two semi-official front organisations — China's Association for Relations across the China Strait (ARATS) and Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) — include three days of high-level talks between the movements' respective vice-presidents Tang Shuei and Chiao Jen-ho.

It is the second meeting of the two organisations since the historic April 1993 summit in Singapore between their presidents Wang Daoban and Koo Chen-fu and the third meeting since Tang visited Taiwan in August last year.

"Despite our political differences I hope we can reach an agreement on the main points," Mr. Tang told reporters before the talks began in the Diaoyutai guest house in the west of the capital.

"In 1994 we were able to overcome difficulties and have kept up a dialogue between our two associations," he said in an oblique reference to several incidents which have marred Sino-Taiwanese relations.

The most serious were the murder of 24 Taiwanese on a pleasure boat on Lake Qian-

dao, east China, in March and the November bombing by Taiwanese artillery of a Chinese village in Fujian province, south-east China, injuring four people.

The presence of Taiwan's vice-premier Hsu Li-teh at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan in October, also angered the Chinese.

Taiwan's offensive to step up its semi-diplomatic exchanges with foreign countries has also irritated the communist regime which sharply condemned the U.S. decision to increase the level of relations with Taipei.

Beijing is also concerned about the growing independence movement in Taipei which it believes could compromise efforts for peaceful reunification.

Sunday's talks began in a relaxed atmosphere. But all previous rounds have failed to reach any agreement because the negotiations raise the thorny issue of legal sovereignty.

Beijing has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the 1949 civil war when Chinese communists defeated the nationalists and drove them off the mainland.

Between April 1993 and August 1994 Chinese nationalists hijacked 16 planes to Taiwan. All were arrested, but Taiwan refused to send them back to China after their trials, insisting that they serve out their prison terms first.

Mandela to visit India

NEW DELHI (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela this week makes his first state visit to India, a nation linked to the apartheid struggle through its founding father Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our victory is the victory of India as well," Mr. Mandela said in a recent interview with the Hindi newspaper.

"It is in this spirit that I am going there."

Mr. Mandela, who will arrive Tuesday, will be guest of honour at India's Republic Day celebrations Jan. 26, when it stages a major military and civil parade to mark the day India launched its democratic constitution.

The South African leader, who was last in India in October 1990, will also visit parliament and unveil a statue to India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

He will meet Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, speak to Indian industrialists and sign a number of general cooperation agreements between India and South Africa.

"The visit will consolidate the historic bonds between the two countries," said Anand Sharma, chairman of the Indian-South African Friendship Association. "It is of great emotional significance for India and its people."

Rescuers begin clearing snow near Kashmir tunnel

JAMMU, India (R) — Indian authorities began clearing three-metre deep snow near a high-altitude tunnel Sunday after avalanches closed a key Kashmir highway last week, trapping thousands of motorists and travellers.

The road — which links Jammu, the winter capital of the northernmost Jammu and Kashmir state, with Srinagar, the summer capital — remained blocked for the seventh day after India's worst avalanche disaster.

More than 5,000 people were rescued after falling rocks and snow pushed vehicles off the strategic Himalayan 290 kilometre highway.

Police said about 110 people were killed by the avalanches, but authorities in New Delhi have confirmed only 50 deaths. Unconfirmed reports say 250 may have been killed.

Officials said it would take a week to shovel off the snow but could take longer depending on weather conditions.

Angry citizens voiced concern about what they said was the government's lack of foresight.

"The government is responsible," Tariq Sadiq, Srinagar district chief of India's ruling Congress Party, told Reuters by telephone.

Sri Lankan truce extended; military eases goods embargo

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops and Tamil guerrillas extended a truce that had been due to expire at midnight Saturday, as the military further eased a goods embargo against the war-torn north, officials said.

"It (the truce) is still holding. We have no problems with that. As long as we observe it, we too will reciprocate," said a military spokesman here.

The ceasefire, which came into effect two weeks ago, had been largely respected despite dozens of minor violations by rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), military officials said.

The truce was originally planned only for a 14-day trial period under an accord signed earlier this month by President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Velupillai Prabhakaran, head of the LTTE, after a second round of peace negotiations in the LTTE stronghold of northern Jaffna.

But following a third round of talks just over a week ago, both sides agreed to extend the truce on an open-ended basis, although ongoing negotiations have so far failed to broach substantive political issues.

The LTTE has insisted that crucial political talks could start only when a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for the war-torn northeast was finalised and a military camp in the north was dismantled.

Defence authorities have said that the northern Pooneryn camp would not be removed, but would be pulled back from a key land route in the region.

Meanwhile, the military partially lifted an embargo banning specific goods from being exported to and imported from the LTTE-held north.

Transit bans were lifted on 12 items — short of the 20 agreed to by the government delegation at the last round

of talks with the LTTE.

The latest items exempted include printing machines, toy guns and electrical wires, electric and electronic equipment, printing machines, gold, chemicals and motor spare parts.

Some 50 goods are still banned from the northern areas that came under military siege.

Ms. Kumaratunga partially lifted the economic embargo after leading her People's Alliance to victory at the August parliamentary elections in a bid to open a dialogue with the LTTE to try and speed up the peace process.

Among the items removed at that time were all medicines, food, sanitary napkins and kerosene oil.

The government remains undecided on whether to lift five other items including remote-control devices, binoculars, telescopes and compasses.

Meanwhile on Sunday, Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist clergy condemned an overnight visit here by Pope John Paul II and said the pontiff's Asia-Pacific tour was an "extension of Catholic imperialism."

A Buddhist lobby described as a "total success" their boycott of the Pope's visit here Saturday marking the final leg of an 11-day tour that also took him to the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

"We could have attended an inter-religious meeting with the Pope only if he made some gesture in favour of the Buddhist world," a spokesman for the Federation of Buddhist Organisations (FBO), Bembangamuwe Nalaka said.

Mr. Nalaka, a Buddhist monk in the forefront of protests against the Pope's best-selling book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope, said the Roman Catholic church in Sri Lanka had "insulted" Buddhists by not extracting an apology from the Pope.

Italian police grab 13 million fake dollars

MILAN, Italy (R) — Italian police said on Saturday they seized fake U.S. dollar bills totalling \$13 million and arrested five people. A police spokesman said four of those arrested had been caught red-handed printing money in a high-tech plant on the outskirts of Milan. Investigators believe the fake dollars were destined for Eastern Europe.

Police arrest Italian Mafia fugitive

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Mafia fugitive convicted of killing two Italian police officers 19 years ago has been arrested, police said Saturday. Giuseppe Santangelo, 35, was captured by federal police Friday in Sao Roque, about 48 kilometres west of Sao Paulo. Mr. Santangelo fled Italy after being sentenced to 18 years in prison for the 1976 slayings of two members of Italy's paramilitary police force near Trapani, Sicily. Prosecutors had claimed the killings were ordered by the Mafia in retaliation for police crackdowns. The anti-Mafia unit of the paramilitary force, the Carabinieri, led the search for Santangelo after he fled Italy. Brazilian police also accused Santangelo of leading a vast money laundering operation in Sao Paulo. No date for extradition was immediately set.

Snow scooter owners protest against environmentalists

JUKKASJAEVRI, Sweden (AFP) — Snow scooter owners staged a demonstration Saturday in this far northern Swedish town to protest against efforts by environmentalists to have restrictions imposed on the vehicles. The ecology lobby claims that the noisy two-stroke scooters frighten wildlife and have particularly toxic exhausts. They reckon that a modern car would have to be driven for 25 million kilometres before it clocked up as much exhaust gas as 1,000 scooters would do if they were run for just one hour. There are around 150,000 snow scooters in Sweden. The latest models are very light, easy to manoeuvre, comfortable, fast and fun to drive, according to enthusiasts. One owner admitted that the fun factor had led to a few excesses at nature's expense. "Scooter owners' association chairman Goeran Dahlstrom said his organisation preferred self-regulation and was drawing up a code of conduct for scooter owners."

Non-Jewish student suspended for wearing star of David

MENDON, Michigan (AP) — A high school student wore the star of David because it made him feel different. School officials told him it made him look like a gang member. "The principal said, 'since you're not Jewish, you're not allowed to wear it,'" said Ron Vaughn, a 15-year-old freshman at Mendon High School. "But he told me I could wear a cross if I wanted to." Administrators told him the star of David was being used as a symbol by some gangs, Vaughn said. He was suspended for two days for refusing to take off the gold-plated, six-pointed star.

Vaughn said the star "made me feel different from the crowd, more like a leader than a follower." Officials of the 730-student school district near Kalamazoo would not comment. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asked the school to remove last month's suspension from Vaughn's record or be sued. Last year, the ACLU lost a lawsuit against another Michigan school district that suspended a 12-year-old for wearing a Chicago White Sox jacket it said was gang-related.

China attempts to control lotteries

BEDING (R) — China has passed two directives in an attempt to control a flood of lotteries worth more than \$160 million, the China Daily said Sunday. The two directives, making lotteries a state monopoly and giving state organisations detailed powers over them, were passed last month after concern in the state council (cabinet) over the extent of non-state lotteries, it said.

Forrest Gump leads pack in Golden Globe awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood kicked off its movie award season Saturday with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globes presentation, and the film "Forrest Gump" took the top three honours.

Tom Hanks, one of the more acclaimed actors in recent years who won an Oscar last year for his role as the AIDS-afflicted lawyer in "Philadelphia," was voted movie actor of the year for his starring role in "Gump."

Robert Zemeckis won best director for the film and "Gump," produced by Paramount Pictures, was also voted best film of the year.

In doing so he beat out Quentin Tarantino, who directed the psychodrama "Pulp Fiction," and had been widely touted for an Oscar over his Miramax production about Los Angeles' crime underworld. Tarantino took consolation in winning the best screenplay award.

But "gump" was the clear winner of the evening. Mr. Hanks beat out John Travolta for the best actor award, despite the latter's

powerful performance in "Pulp Fiction." "Gump" was also voted best movie of the year.

"Pulp Fiction" had been nominated for six Golden Globes and "Forrest Gump" for seven.

The other three-award winner was Disney's "The Lion King," which took honours for best musical or comedy film, best original score and best original song.

Jessica Lange won the Golden Globe for best actress for her role as the woman in the movie "Blue Sky," beating out such luminaries as Jodie Foster, nominated for "Neil," and Meryl Streep, who got the nod for "The River Wild."

British actor Hugh Grant took the award for best actor in a musical or comedy picture for his madcap role in "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and was joined on the honours list by fellow countrywoman Miranda Richardson. Ms. Richardson got a Golden Globe for best supporting actress in a TV series or made-for-TV movie for "Fatherland," which aired on HBO, Home Broadcast-

ing Operation.

Edward James Olmos took the Globe as best supporting actor in the same category for his role in "The Burning Season," about the destruction of the South American rain forests.

Martin Landau, once the suave hero of the TV series "Mission Impossible," won for best supporting actor in a motion picture for his role as veteran horror film star Bela Lugosi in "Ed Wood."

Mr. Landau said he had no butterflies in his stomach thinking that his Golden Globe might lead to an Oscar nomination, and ultimately an Academy Award.

"The film was made some time ago. There's nothing I can do about it now. It would be nice to win an Oscar but the Golden Globe is also nice. I just hope enough people saw and enjoyed the film. That's where the real satisfaction in acting comes from," he said.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association differs from the Academy Awards by honouring television as well as movies, and nominating films in both drama



Tom Hanks

and musical or comedy categories.

On the television side, Claire Danes won for best actress in a television drama series for her role in "My So-Called Life," while Dennis Franz won for best

actor in the same category for his portrayal as the cynical detective in "NYPD Blue."

The best television series drama award went to "The X-Files," seen on the Fox television network.

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

No capital gain tax

"First class" officials said that the income tax draft law was withdrawn and that a new draft, which would not include a capital gains tax and would not differentiate between individuals and companies, is being prepared (Al Aswaki).

Amman was selected as the site for the secretariat of the economic development group which was formed after the multilateral discussions on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Ra'i).

Loans and grants evaluated by the Development Fund for Employment (DFE) last year totalled JD 25,910, that financed 813 projects and created 1,329 jobs opportunities. The overall lending since inception in 1991, until the end of 1994, reached JD 24,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,950 jobs opportunities. 32.7 per cent of the credits benefited projects in Amman while 67 per cent financed projects in Irbid. Madaba's share was 3.2 per cent while Zarqa and Ajloun followed with 0.6 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively (Al Ra'i).

International prices of some seeds have risen from \$3 a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne, as such, tahineh (sesame paste) factories raised their prices to JD 1.45 a kilogramme, compared to JD 1.00 previously. With the price of a plate of tahineh is expected to go up to JD 1.50 (Al Aswaki).

The number of computer businesses exceeds 350, with a noticeable presence in Garma Street (Wasfi Al Tal). However, only 10 of these businesses are able to enter large tenders. With high demand for computers from banks and government ministries, the computer sector is expected to remain active in the near future (Al Aswaki).

Coffee prices went down as an average of JD 1 per kilogramme. As a result, a kilogramme now costs JD 5. The official source at the Ministry of Supply said the price was continuing its downward trend to further ease prices to JD 4.5 a kilogramme as coffee prices are falling internationally (Al Aswaki).

Zarqa Educational and Investment Company is accepting subscription for its shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 1,200 (JD par value and 200 fils premium), will increase the capital of the company by JD 1.5 million. Shareholders must buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 29, 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

The Zarqa Municipality is finalising its 1995 budget which is expected to be around JD 6.7 million. The municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a budget of JD 5.3 million, a 38 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts allocated in the budget (Al Aswaki).

Royal Jordanian Air Force is starting the modernisation of its cargo fleet, which consists of three C-130H Hercules. Royal Jordanian carried 55,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994, a 1.5 per cent increase over the previous year. The fleet is expected to reach 100 aircraft by the year 2000 (Al Ra'i).

The Ministry of Education is agreed with the central bank on issuing special bonds to support the housing fund for teachers. The mechanism involves raising loans from the fund to be carried out through the Housing Bank (Al Ra'i).

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Lenin remembered: A woman holding flowers the 71st anniversary of the death of Lenin walks in front of a Lenin portrait in Red Square during a demonstration held by members of the Russian Communist Party marking the 71st anniversary of the death of Lenin (AFP photo)

EU wheels out economic weapons to combat war

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) will consider on Monday whether to deploy its economic arsenal of economic powers to try to influence the course of conflict in Chechnya and former Yugoslavia.

In a familiar situation reflecting the EU's lack of ability to halt foreign bloodshed, union foreign ministers may look at whether to exert pressure on Moscow over its handling of the Chechen war by delaying the signature of a trade accord.

Diplomats said ministers were likely to use the opposite approach on Croatia by dangling the prospect of negotiations for an economic cooperation agreement with Zagreb if it "plays the game" in the fragile peace process in former Yugoslavia.

Ministers will also discuss the situation in Algeria and plans for a Euro-Mediterranean conference later this year which will focus on the need for regional economic development to ward off the spread of Algerian-style Islamic fundamentalism.

The first regular monthly foreign ministers' meeting of the new enlarged EU will start with a public debate on the work programme of the union's six-month French presidency before paying tribute to outgoing commission President Jacques Delors.

Liberia warlord reports deal

MONROVIA (R) — One of Liberia's warlords on Sunday announced an agreement on a dispute which had thrown the shattered country's peace process off track, upstaging the local soccer hero George Weah and the national team.

Faction leader Octavien Walker of the Liberia Peace Council made the surprise announcement as Liberians took a break from politics to focus on Sunday afternoon's key African Nations Cup home qualifier against Senegal.

"We have fixed it. We fixed it last night and General (Hezekiah) Bowen will be the representative on the council from the AFL coalition," he told reporters at the airport as faction leaders left for talks in Ghana.

A dispute between Gen. Bowen's Armed Forces of Liberia, once the national army, and a coalition of smaller militias over who should occupy the last of five seats on a transitional ruling council has thrown the timetable off course.

"The only thing we have to do in Ghana now is to elect the chairman," said Mr. Walker, whose group is in the coalition.

Led by Mr. Weah, voted African player of the year in a prestigious French poll and courted by top Italian side AC Milan, Liberia was looking for a victory in Sunday's match to take them into the Nations Cup finals in South Africa in 1996.

This occasion can be used as a way for the politicians and warlords to forget their differences and unite to rebuild a successful Liberia," Mr. Weah's cousin Wilson Weah told Reuters.

Local Red Cross worker John Jallah said Liberia's political problems eclipsed thoughts of the match last week. "Enthusiasm for the game was very low. I think that has changed now," he added, before the announcement.

Liberia, set up by freed American slaves in 1847, has been racked by civil war since former civil servant Charles Taylor invaded from Ivory

Bosnia truce holds; big powers pursue peace mission

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's three-week-old ceasefire appeared firm Sunday as a U.S. envoy shuttled between Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale to revive talks on ending a 33-month war.

A United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo said Bosnia was quiet during the past 24 hours apart from a handful of truce violations which the U.N. did not categorise as serious.

U.S. mediator Charles Thomas, a member of five-nation big power "contact group" set up last year to etch out a political settlement in Bosnia, discussed the group's latest initiatives over breakfast with the outgoing U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose.

Mr. Thomas said after meeting leaders of Bosnia's Muslim-led government Saturday evening that the group — comprising the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — in-

tended to pursue its peace plan for Bosnia drawn up last July.

The four other contact group envoys were expected to join Mr. Thomas in Sarajevo Monday.

"We had a chance to discuss the contact group peace plan, which we stick to. We had a very helpful exchange of views," Mr. Thomas said.

Mr. Thomas went into talks on Sunday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and other Serb officials.

The contact group aimed to take advantage of the latest Bosnia truce which came into effect over the new year after a peace mission by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The Bosnia peace process has been made no easier by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's decision to end the U.N.'s peacekeeping mandate in his country.

Mr. Tudjman told the German news weekly Der Spiegel his government

wanted the U.N. force out and his army stood ready to recover by force the third of Croatia's territory seized by Serbs in Zagreb's 1991 war of secession from former Yugoslavia.

U.N. chiefs and Western governments fear renewed war in Croatia which could turn end any hope of peace in Bosnia.

Mr. Rose, who passes the U.N. command baton to British Major-General Rupert Smith Tuesday, has said the Bosnia ceasefire process was in danger of losing momentum as the Bosnian government and Serb forces dragged their feet over making good pledges they agreed in the new year truce pact.

Bosnian government and Serb negotiators resume talks Sunday on reopening civilian routes in and out of Sarajevo, one of the key planks of the ceasefire accord.

"They broke up a meeting on Friday without deciding anything so they could con-

sult with their respective leadership. But they told us they said they were not optimistic about getting an agreement," a U.N. source said.

But while Bosnian Serbs stonewall on that part of the agreement, arguing over what type of vehicles should be let into Sarajevo, the ceasefire process received a much-needed boost Friday in a major prisoner swap.

The Bosnian government exchanged 49 Serb prisoners for 49 Muslims held by their rivals since the summer in an operation that went off without a hitch.

Despite occasional heavy fighting in the northwest Muslim enclave of Bihac over the past three weeks, Bosnia's ceasefire appeared to be the most successful so far, although diplomats say the calm may also be attributed to the snowy winter weather.

U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said U.N. radars detected nine ceasefire violations in the Doboj region in

northeast Bosnia on Saturday.

Mr. Coward also reported several firing incidents near the southern city of Mostar and Vitez in central Bosnia and said there had also been scattered shooting in Sarajevo but none was classed as serious.

Bosnian government forces clashed sporadically with Bosnian Serbs, Croatian Serbs and allied rebel Muslim forces in the Bihac pocket but the intensity of the fighting had slackened off since last Thursday.

The U.N. said there were eight artillery explosions and 18 small arms incidents west of Bihac town, a U.N. "safe area," in the early hours of Sunday morning. U.N. monitors registered 50 artillery blasts near Velika Kladusa, north of Bihac.

"It seems we've reached a plateau in terms of fighting in the Kladusa region... we notice no changes in confrontation lines," Mr. Coward said.

S. African parliament to meet after political row

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's parliament starts its 1995 programme Monday with President Nelson Mandela and white Deputy President F.W. de Klerk promising "a fresh start" after a bitter slanging match.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk made peace at private talks Friday. Political analysts said, however, their worst row since South Africa's democracy elections last April had highlighted the fragility of their post-apartheid coalition.

Mr. de Klerk was South Africa's last white president and still leads the National Party (NP), the main coalition partner of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) which won the elections.

Conservative Afrikaans newspaper editor Ebe Dommisse said the row over an alleged secret attempt by Mr. de Klerk's NP to grant immunity for 3,500 police and two former cabinet ministers for apartheid crimes had battered the NP's image.

"Nothing has done the process of reconciliation in South Africa so much harm as the past week's row over indemnity," he said in a regular political column.

Political representatives of the rival guerrilla groups are in exploratory talks with the British government.

But in a parallel move, Britain and Ireland have been working on a so-called "framework document" that they will propose to all Protestant and Catholic politicians aimed at netting a final settlement of the province's political problems.

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two men addressed a joint news conference Friday and said they had made peace.

Liberal Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said in a commentary that Mr. de Klerk, battling to accept that power had passed from his own hands into Mr. Mandela's, had tried to play his last card with the threat to pull out of the coalition.

"The coalition was restored, not because the breach between the two men was healed, but because the alternative, for both sides, was too ghastly to contemplate."

"...If Mr. de Klerk again flashes his last card, I suspect Mr. Mandela will accept it," Mr. Owen said.

Speaker of parliament Irene Ginwala said the 1995 session would start with a debate on the immunity controversy.

But the 400-member national assembly will not have any authority to resolve the dispute, which has been referred to the justice, police and defence ministries for a recommendation.

Parliament's legislative programme has been delayed until February to allow members a month in which to focus on their parallel role as constitution-makers.

Thousands attend French bishop's last mass

EVREUX, France (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people gathered in this Normandy city Sunday to hear a farewell mass by its Catholic Bishop Monsignor Jacques Gaillot, sacked by the Vatican for his unorthodox views.

Estimates said between 25,000 and 50,000 worshippers — and more than 200 print and broadcast journalists — were likely to turn out for the mass by the controversial prelate, whose dismissal has sparked nationwide condemnation of the Holy See.

Bishop Gaillot has condemned the Vatican decision, and has pledged to continue his campaigns for various social issues.

A committee set up by his supporters said some 300 coaches had been hired for the occasion, while trainloads of supporters of the bishop, sacked Jan. 13, were also expected.

His last mass, delivered in the city's cathedral, was due to be broadcast live over loudspeakers across the city.

Bishop Gaillot, 59, upset the Catholic hierarchy by, among other things, giving interviews to French girlie magazine Lui and a magazine for homosexuals, Gay-Pied.

The Vatican said he consistently failed to heed warnings about his behaviour and opinions, which include unorthodox views on artificial contraception and abortion, both considered sinful under mainstream Catholic teaching.

Meanwhile a support group said it was going ahead with a plan for a march on Paris to protest the Vatican decision. The march is due to leave Evreux Monday and pass through 13 towns before reaching Paris Feb. 4.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Berlusconi offers truce

ROME (AP) — Italy's former premier offered a political truce Saturday by backing off demands for a firm election date by his successor, who now appears likely to win a confidence vote in parliament. Ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi denied he has "an obsession with elections" and indicated that he would support elections in "a reasonable time." The statement is more flexible than Mr. Berlusconi's earlier demands and could seal Premier Lamberto Dini's victory in a parliamentary vote expected this week on Italy's 54th government since World War II. Mr. Berlusconi had earlier said he would withhold support in parliament for Mr. Dini without a promise for elections in June.

Armenian government holds emergency session

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — The government met in emergency session after a natural gas pipeline that is Armenia's only source of energy was reported blown up in Georgia on Saturday. The blast in southern Georgia destroyed a 200-metre section of the pipeline bringing gas from Turkmenistan, the government press service said in Yerevan. No further details were available. Georgia agreed to divert within days some of its own gas supplies from Turkmenistan to a reserve pipeline leading into Armenia, the Press Service said. The main pipeline has been bombed repeatedly in attacks presumed to be related to Armenia's six-year-old war with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. Fuel shortages have forced Yerevan residents to cut down virtually all the trees in the city of 1.2 million to heat their homes. Armenia is one of the poorest ex-Soviet republics, partly because of economic blockades imposed by Azerbaijan.

22 dead in Mexico truck accident

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Twenty-two people were killed and 10 others seriously injured when a truck carrying people returning from a religious pilgrimage plunged off a cliff and fell 200 metres, a local official said Saturday. The accident took place late Friday in the southern state of Oaxaca on the Oaxaca-Puerto Escondido highway, the official told AFP. "People were packed in like sardines" in the cargo truck, which was carrying 32 people returning from a religious festival in Oaxaca, the official said. The victims were from the central state of Puebla and had travelled to Oaxaca to visit a shrine to the Virgin Mary.

Earthquake rocks Kuriles

MOSCOW (R) — An earthquake measuring five to six on the Richter scale shook buildings on the remote Kurile Islands in Russia's far east late on Saturday, a spokesman for the emergency ministry said Sunday. The earthquake, which rocked the islands just before midnight, had its epicentre in the Pacific Ocean, 80 kilometres south-east of the Russian town of Yuzhno-Kurilsk. There were no reports of casualties or damage, the spokesman said. The Kuriles, disputed between Russia and Japan, were devastated by a powerful earthquake last year. They are more than 1,200 kilometres from the Japanese city of Kobe, scene of a disastrous earthquake last week.

China attempts control lotteries

BEIJING (R) — China's two directors of state lotteries on Sunday announced a crackdown on the underground lottery market, making lotteries a monopoly and giving state-owned enterprises the right to sell tickets.

The two directors, who were suspended last month after a scandal over a state council (cabinet) lottery, said the crackdown was necessary to control the lottery market.

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Jordan Times

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Where reform begins

THE ADO that accompanied the recent resolution by the government to raise the pension of newly retired civil and military personnel starting on Dec. 1, 1994, should have at least been anticipated by those who took the decision. While the first reason for such a measure must have been meant to help the government trim down the numbers in the services, the second was no doubt the fact that, left as they were, the pensions would have been insufficient to help retired people cope with an ever-rising cost of living. Yet that cost has been rising for so many years and the hardship is most felt by those who retired earlier on much lower pensions.

Now, if the government would yield to the pressure of the around 450,000 retired Jordanians and raise pensions by only a fraction of the recent increases, that would put the treasury under tremendous strain to secure funds for that purpose. That is traditionally done by increasing taxes resulting in an automatic rise in cost of living and protests from different groups. A vicious circle, we would say.

This whole issue is, however, transient, one that will get solved one way or another, most likely in the manner that we always solved our problems: Either by meeting only a tiny part of the demands of old pensioners or by leaving the issue to die a natural death. Yet this is a good issue which should be used to review not only the employment and retirement policies but all economic policies of the country. We should be asking questions like: Should the government continue to provide almost all public services? Should the government be the largest employer of Jordanians? Should the treasury subsidise employment? Should people retire at the early age of 50 or 60 after completing only 20 years of service? Should we have two retirement schemes, one for civil servants and one for the private sector?

The point here is certainly not to rectify a situation that resulted from a single decision. Rather, it is to reverse or reform a completely worn-out policy. This and many similar issues are at the heart of our main problem: An outdated, problem-plagued bureaucratic system. What this episode should teach us is that piecemeal solutions will not do. Only a concerted attempt at true reform will do the job.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday expressed hope that the Aqaba summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would constitute a starting point for joint efforts towards achieving reconciliation among Arab states. Saying that the summit was held at a time when the Arab countries are still divided, the paper said that the meeting has proved that Arab leaders can transcend old differences and mobilise all their efforts towards healing rifts and mending fences with sincerity and determination to serve national goals. Egypt assumes a central role and has offered so many sacrifices in the past in order to serve the Arab Nation. Therefore, Cairo is in a good position to play a renewed role in bringing the Arabs together, added the daily. Noting that the Arab states together face enormous challenges, the paper said it is hoped that the Aqaba summit would trigger fresh efforts on the part of every Arab head of state to work out common plans to solve problems facing the Arab World.

IN THE light of Israel's policy of delaying the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, the Palestinians should cling hard to their stand and insist on their demands, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dastour. The Israeli government had delayed the Palestinian elections for six months and might extend the delay for another six months, said the writer. It has also allowed the Jewish settlers to go ahead with settlement programmes unchecked, he said. All this provides an obvious indication that the Israelis are not committed to the implementation of their agreement with the Palestinians, said the writer. The Palestinians should insist on the execution of agreed plans on the redeployment of the Israeli forces and must not give in to Israeli pressures for any delay in this respect because any weakness would encourage the Israelis to ask for more concessions, said the writer. The Palestinians should study the lessons of the past Israeli-Egyptian experiment when Israel tried by all means to delay the implementation of deals with Cairo, he added.

By Khalil Barhoum

THE WORLD has witnessed the tip of the iceberg of problems that we shall have to overcome in the implementation of even the first phase of the Declaration of Principles.

The above was said by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin at the signing of the third Cairo accord between Israel and the PLO on May 4. They were prophetic words indeed. More than one year after the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the two sides are still groping with the interpretation of their assigned new roles which, to the surprise of very few people, reflect the inescapable balance of power between the two sides on the ground. The PLO, now widely referred to in the occupied territories as the Palestine National Authority, has bravely attempted to portray its relationship with the Israeli government as equitable. But the fact of the matter is that the authority does not so much as own the keys to its own house.

Due to an agreement which fails to guarantee them even a minimum of their aspirations, the Palestinians now find themselves trapped in political limbo, their once revolutionary leadership having traded in its liberationist credentials for a wifid submission to life under Israeli siege. In the meantime, while Arab governments continue to negotiate wholesale peace with Israel, the Palestinians have been conversely subjected to an exercise in political Darwinism. This has the unmistakable aim of taming the Palestinian spirit, while pushing the Palestinian people and their previous central political role to the margins of Israel's overall strategic calculations. Crucially for Israel, Yasser Arafat has been the principal facilitator of a sweeping Arab capitulation to Israel's political diktat. Now that the Arab opening to Israel in the political and economic spheres is underway, Arafat is finding his wider role as best man for the initial Arab-Israeli rapprochement ever more irrelevant and superfluous.

An agreement replete with ironies

Not only have the Oslo Accords left the Palestinians weaker and more exposed than ever, they have ushered in a process replete with ironies. First, the accords primarily address the fate of Palestinians in the occupied territories; they deal with diaspora Palestinians — who represent roughly two thirds of the whole population — altogether perfunctorily in fact almost as an afterthought. This represents a departure for a movement that has staked its entire philosophy, even existence, on the twin Palestinian rights of return and self-determination. As if the current fragmentation of the Palestinians along ideological and political lines were not enough, the accords provide for further segmenting the Palestinians geographically, into those who live in the West Bank and Gaza and those who do not. Underlining this new distinction is the feeble argument that, given the reality of the situation on the ground, Palestinians under occupation have the most to lose, and hence, their concerns must assume political primacy at this juncture.

This argument would be perhaps defensible were it not for the absence in the accords of any specific and unambiguous context for dealing with the 46-year old refugee problem. Other than a vague and non-committal reference to the intention of tackling the fate of 1948 Palestinian refugees during final status negotiations, the accords concern themselves merely with the "administrative" fate of those Palestinians not living under Israeli occupation. The irony in this situation is that the PLO fiercely objected to the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace talks being made up entirely of Palestinians from the territories, mainly on the grounds that only the PLO could adequately and effectively represent the interests of all Palestinians. Soon after the

accords were made public, however, it became obvious that the Palestinian team leading the negotiations in Washington was more in tune with the concerns of all Palestinians than the PLO team in Oslo, which, in fact, operated in utter secrecy to avoid public scrutiny.

Second, for decades the Palestinians have been trying to gain support for their grievances against Israel from the U.S. government and public opinion. Recognising that the U.S. is Israel's principal military and economic backer, the Palestinians still tried — without much success — to establish official contacts with it. Along these lines, they proceeded to build coalitions, mainly with progres-

ness with the PLO, the U.S. administration was more than happy to follow suit.

Third, the U.S., which all along had Israel's best interests at heart during the Washington peace talks, despite the comical label of "honest broker," turned out to be too pro-Israel even for the Israelis. U.S. pledges to the Palestinians that it would be a "full partner" in the talks came frighteningly close to reality, as the administration never failed to support the Israeli position at every impasse encountered by the two negotiating parties. Even under these extremely unfavourable conditions, the Palestinian negotiating team, headed by Haidar Abdul Shafi, stubbornly persevered.

"The reality is that the PLO under Arafat has once again tragically miscalculated both the Palestinian mood and Israeli intentions. To ensure his own political survival, Arafat has settled for short-term political gain (i.e. Israeli recognition of the PLO) and vague promises of future concessions, which will be contingent upon Israel's determination of his good conduct."

sive political groups and religious organisations, with an eye on creating more U.S. awareness and sympathy for their cause — and in the hope of prodding the American administration to play a more constructive political role in addressing their plight. But the attempt had very little impact on U.S. foreign policy considerations. Now that the Palestinian leadership has clearly succumbed to an Israeli-dictated vision of peace, the Palestinians are dismayed to discover that the price for opening a channel to Washington is their total and unconditional alignment with Israel's political designs. Once the Israeli government decreed that it was acceptable and prudent to do busi-

ness, it was the Israelis who finally decided that the U.S. was too partisan to serve Israel's interests well, and so moved ahead of it at Oslo.

The last irony is that since the Madrid conference at the end of 1991, the PLO had sounded repeated warnings over impending separate Arab-Israeli peace deals. But the PLO's fears were unwarranted; the first party to break Arab ranks was the PLO itself, leaving both Jordan and Syria feeling embittered and betrayed. Now that Jordan has signed its own deal with Israel, and Syria cannot be left behind for long, the PLO's laments and protests over the Arab governments' moving too fast in

their peace overtures to Israel rings more hollow than ever.

This underlines the PLO leadership's arrogance towards its Arab negotiating partners, as well as its lack of accountability to its own people. The PLO has always believed and acted as though it had the right to exercise a veto over Arab states' peace moves towards Israel, while at the same time permitting itself the luxury of breaking its own repeated pledges to these states not to be the first party — since Sadat — to split Arab ranks in that regard. Further compounding this dynamic is the unfortunate reality that the PLO has always lacked a true system of accountability towards its own people, a system designed to make its leaders pay for their miscalculations. As a result, decisions have been often taken in a thoroughly haphazard manner, excused later by shameless and lame justifications.

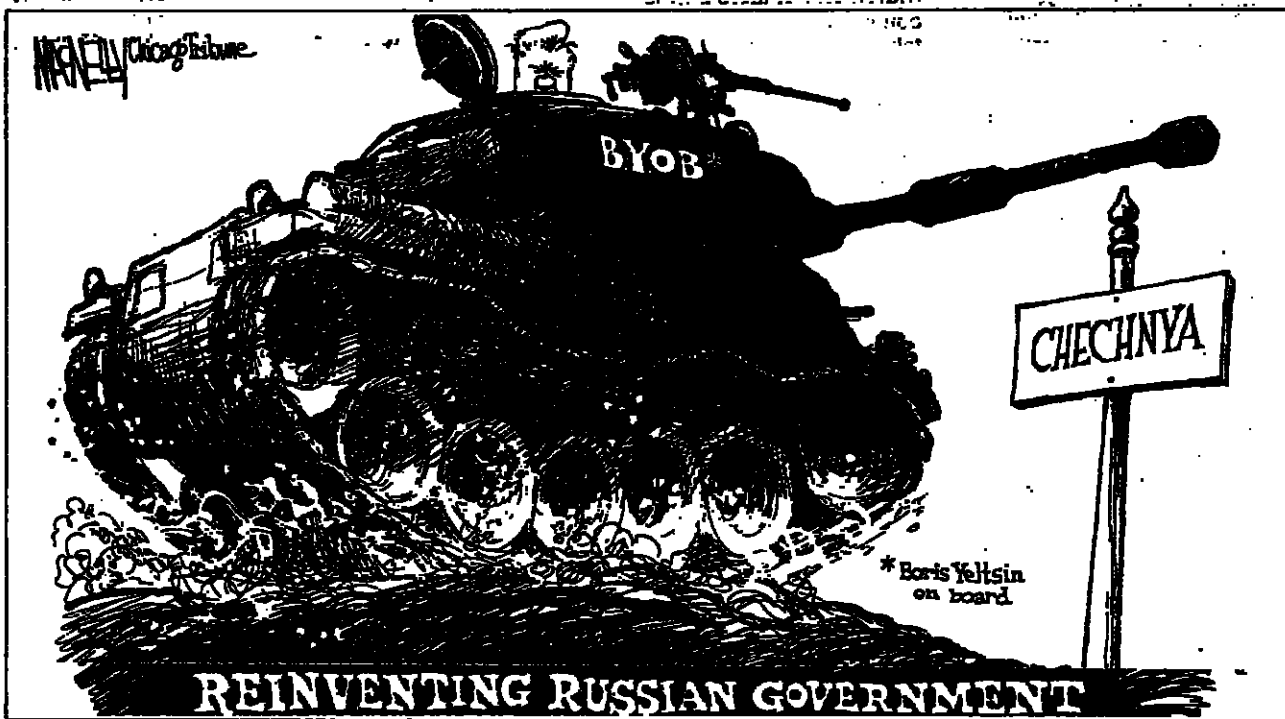
Arrogance without accountability

Such is the case with the latest — and potentially greatest Palestinian blunder, the Oslo Accords. Now that the PLO realises their many limitations and inconsistencies, the Palestinian people are being asked to close ranks behind their leadership. Palestinian rights are being sacrificed and compromised daily, within the context of an agreement which has had the effect of legitimising the Israeli occupation and supplanting a whole set of U.N. resolutions predicted on international legitimacy and consensus, all in the name of not wanting to prejudice the outcome of ongoing negotiations. Emboldened by the new compromising position in which the PLO has found itself after moving to Gaza, the Israeli and U.S. governments have been actively seeking a repeal of U.N. resolutions critical of Israel and supportive of Palestinian rights. This process of "historical re-engineering" would send far-fetched were it entirely without precedent. But after the Gulf war, the Bush

administration — in a bid to prove its pro-Israel credentials before the 1992 U.S. presidential elections — successfully championed the repeal of the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism. Now that the Israeli government is linking every political move in its negotiations with the Palestinians to how malleable the PLO proves to be in according to Israeli demands, the question arises of how resistant the PLO can be to such unremitting pressure, especially given that its political survival seems to rely on such compliance.

The reality is that the PLO under Arafat has once again tragically miscalculated both the Palestinian mood and Israeli intentions. To ensure his own political survival, Arafat has settled for short-term political gain (i.e. Israeli recognition of the PLO) and vague promises of future concessions, which will be contingent upon Israel's determination of his good conduct. The sad truth is that Arafat, as a free man, was not able to achieve for the Palestinians even a fraction of what Nelson Mandela in his prison cell was able to accomplish for his own people. For the new Palestine being fashioned in Gaza is hardly the glorious vision which, over the past three decades, Arafat has promised his people. With sovereignty still firmly in Israeli hands, the economy collapsing and the new authority turning its guns against its own people, the present situation is indeed a nightmarish vision only the Israeli settlers could have wished on the Palestinians. And, thanks mainly to Arafat's separate peace, the Arab states now feel free to go it alone and the Palestinians' worst fear of marginalisation and fragmentation is becoming more of a reality with every passing day.

Khalil Barhoum is senior lecturer at the Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, California. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.



War chews up Chechnya

By Candice Hughes
The Associated Press

ACHKHOI-MARTAN, Russia — Every few days the war takes another bite out of this district southwest of Grozny.

The bites — a few dead or wounded every few days — are small compared to the day-by-day pounding of the capital by Russian bombs, rockets and artillery. But they are getting bigger and bloodier.

The Achkhoi-Martan district, where thousands of Russian troops are encamped, is a preview of what lies ahead: an uneasy coexistence between occupiers and occupied, a stubborn guerrilla war.

The Chechens have vowed to fight to the last man. Their centuries-long history of resistance to both Czars and commissars and their bravery in battle so far suggests they can be taken at their word.

The first battle is for Grozny. The next will be for towns and villages throughout Chechnya. The final front will be the rugged mountains that served the Chechens' rebellious forebears so long and so well.

"The Russians will occupy the villages and then we'll start the most important stage of the war. We'll move to the mountains where nobody will kick us out," said a local farmer-turned-fighter, Said Amerbekov. "We'll nev-

er give up."

This district lies between Grozny and the mountains, along the main road in from the west. It is already a shifting patchwork of Chechen and Russian-held territory. In some places, the two sides have checkpoints about a kilometre apart.

At a snowy roadside a few kilometres from Achkhoi-Martan guarded by machine guns and armoured vehicles, a Russian soldier patrolled his grenade launcher. "We call this the 'alarm clock,'" he said. "We have orders to fire five grenades every morning at 6 a.m. to scare the Chechens."

Just down the road, the lightly armed men manning the Chechen checkpoint seemed unimpressed. The ground was littered with spent cartridges. The lightly armed Chechens had just tried to shoot down a Russian "crocodile," a Mi-24 helicopter gunship, with their assault rifles.

"Russian mothers will weep every day until this war stops," vowed Rukhman Sugabov. "The Chechens have no tears left."

The people in this district have used both guns and diplomacy since a Russian armoured column arrived in mid-December and encamped. Talks between local officials and Russian field commanders have achieved the first prisoner exchange of

the war and a handful of tacit agreements about turf. But there are also sporadic clashes.

"If it's possible to negotiate, we negotiate. If they want war, we'll bring out our guns," Hamzat Matayev, the Achkhoi-Martan security chief said.

Plenty of guns are already out. Local men armed with Kalashnikovs are on constant guard in the Achkhoi-Martan town square only 50 kilometres from Grozny.

People here are bracing for an all-out Russian attack. If the Russians want to encircle Grozny and cut it off from the mountains, they'll have to go through this district, home to 63,000 people scattered throughout several farming towns and villages.

The district's self-defence chief, Magomet Zelimhanov, said more than 80 local people already have died in clashes with the Russians.

Both sides have pursued a policy of harassment rather than all-out confrontation. Chechen guerrillas have ambushed Russian armoured vehicles several times and killed several Russian soldiers for their weapons. The Russians have retaliated, mostly with artillery and helicopter gunships.

But the peace is picking up and the Russians have begun to creep closer to Grozny, moving into towns previously left untouched.

On Thursday and Friday, edgy Russian commandos in black ski masks carried out house-to-house raids in Assinovskaya, about 5 kilometres from Achkhoi-Martan town on the border with Ingushetia. Officials said nine people were arrested.

It was the Russians' second attempt to raid the town. The first, on Monday, provoked one of the district's worst clashes to date, an all-day battle between scores of Chechens from nearby towns like Bamut and Achkhoi-Martan and a small Russian armoured convoy.

The Chechens said they had 11 dead and 46 wounded. Russian casualties were unknown, but five bodies and 10 wounded soldiers from the battle were seen at a nearby field hospital.

That night, Russian helicopter gunships rained revenge down on Bamut. The attacks would continue for days.

Only a handful of mourners dared to gather under the cold gray sky the next day to bury Bamut's five new dead. Artillery thundered in the distance as village elders in tall gray Astrakhan hats and long black coats presided over the funerals.

"Tell the world we are peaceful people," one old man said, leaning on a staff, his blue eyes blazing. "Tell the world the Russians are killing a new generation."

LETTERS

Governance through violence

To the Editor:

THE ONGOING bloody chapter in Chechnya is but another by-product of the Western policy towards the former Soviet Union. And Russian President Boris Yeltsin's own political agenda has led him to this quagmire.

For decades, especially after the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany, the West embarked on a strategy to bring about the demise of the Soviet Union, which, in its turn, had its own plans for combating capitalism.

The most significant step towards the collapse of Communism was the fall of the Berlin Wall. This was followed by Warsaw pact countries detaching themselves from the big bear, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union with the republics that formed it opting for independence.

The West's highly publicised publicised campaign against the "Evil Empire" had one central theme: violations of human rights and absence of democracy. Strategists and think-tanks in the West then identified three major targets: To reduce to a minimum the communist influence all over the world, especially in vulnerable Third World countries, to disarm the Soviet Union of its nuclear capabilities and to help Jews leave that country.

So far, two of the above objectives have been achieved in such a style that it has made those strategists and think-tanks forget or neglect the very first argument they used against the Soviets, namely the absence of genuine democracy and the violations of basic human rights. If the said strategists and think-tanks forgot this original moral argument, that cry was not lost to the tens of indigenous peoples whose ancestral home-lands had composed the former Soviet Union. Those peoples have waited long for the moment of emancipation from Moscow's grip, whether it was under the Czar, Stalin, Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Yeltsin or whoever succeeds him.

One cannot think of a more telling example of acquiescence by the West to Mr. Yeltsin's abuse of power than the shelling of the Duma, the Russian house of democracy. Maybe some people thought at the time, that it was not so bad an idea to let Mr. Yeltsin reestablish his authority behind the trembling walls of the Kremlin by knocking out some walls of the Duma.

As the Chechnya tragedy is demonstrating, Mr. Yeltsin seems to have become addicted to violence as a method of convincing his subjects of his views.

If Mr. Yeltsin is left with a total free hand whenever he faces a problem of dissent, he and those who condone such actions will have to share the responsibility. It is a sure recipe for more headaches, especially that there is an awesome Pandora's box waiting to be opened.

In Arabic, there is a proverb which says that it is better to deal with a reasonable enemy, than to have to deal with a clumsy friend. This proverb was coined in Arab popular literature when a countryman took his bear for a walk. After some time, the man decided to have a nap under a tree. While enjoying his nap, a fly landed on his nose, but that did not bother him. Instead, it bothered his pet which wanted to relieve his master from the buzzing fly. So, the faithful pet took a little rock and smashed the fly.

The strategy of the West vis-a-vis its old rival, the former Soviet Union must be revised. So far what this strategy has achieved is replacing communism with anarchy, substituting sanity with incompetence and transforming Sovietism into Russianism.

Salim Ayoub,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

House seeks to ensure quorum

(Continued from page 12)

election process. Afterwards, their enthusiasm fades, thus affecting the committees' meetings.

The House is scheduled to meet Wednesday to hear the government's policy statement and to set a date to debate the statement and take a vote of confidence in the new government.

Meanwhile, the House's

Foreign Affairs Committee was Sunday briefed by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti on the outcome of the Jordanian-Egyptian summit held Saturday in Agaba between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Kabarti also outlined to the committee the outcome of his meetings with Palestinian and Tunisian officials during his visit to Tunisia, and his participation in the meetings of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Jerusalem Committee held in the Moroccan city of Ifran.

The committee was also briefed by former Minister of State Jawad Al Anani on a meeting hosted by Washington on the establishment of a Middle East development bank and efforts to hold an economic summit in Amman Oct. 30, 1995.

was particularly comfortable with recent Jordanian statements mostly by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, that Jordan supports a solution based on the recognition of Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

Mr. Kabarti's statements, reflected the government's policy and were crucial to the easing of the tensions since they addressed Palestinian fears and sensitivity towards the issue.

Meanwhile Jordan denied on Saturday it had agreed with Israel to build a \$100 million, 260 kilometre pipeline for refined oil products.

An Israeli energy ministry spokesman told Reuters on Thursday that Israel and Jordan had agreed in principle to build such a pipeline.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an Energy Ministry spokesman as saying no energy projects were defined in recent talks with Israel.

"Discussing any future projects will only happen in due course," he added.

The Israeli official has said the pipeline would run between state owned Oil Refineries Ltd's Haifa plant and Jordan's Zarqa refinery.

Jordan and Israel are expected to reach an energy accord in a few months before a six-month deadline set in the peace treaty they signed on Oct. 26.

Jordanian-PLO officials

(Continued from page 1)

start a new era.

"It is no longer feasible or possible to ignore relations with Jordan. The Palestinians will just be cornered by Israel. Jordanians and Palestinians need each other," a Palestinian official said. Mr. Arafat realises now the importance of mending fences and starting cooperation with Jordan, the official told the Jordan Times.

"All Arab states and parties are aware now that separate paths will not lead far; neither Jordan nor the Palestinians can do without consolidating their Arab dimensions," said a Jordanian official.

Mr. Arafat's visit, the first since May, signals a positive shift in bilateral relations that have been strained since the PLO signed a separate agreement with Israel in September 1993.

Relations further deteriorated when Jordan signed a peace agreement last October that included an Israeli recognition of the Jordanian custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem.

But it was made possible by decisions by the two sides separately to stop making an issue of the Jordanian role in Jerusalem at Arab and Islamic meetings.

The Palestinian Authority

For instance, Jordan's annual economic growth used to be around 10 per cent during the 70s before starting a decline and moving into "zero" in the late 80s. With the implementation of the programme, the Kingdom's economy recovered its growth, posting an average of six per cent in the last two years after registering 11 per cent in 1992.

"The question here is: Do we measure this growth rate against the corresponding figures of the 70s or against the zero growth rate in the late 80s?" he said.

The seminar, entitled "The IMF and the Arab Countries: Present and Future," was organised by the Amman-based Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies in a new programme under the theme "Press and Mass Media Forum."

On Saturday and Sunday, IMF experts sought to give a detailed picture of the world body and the parameters it applies in its work with a view to familiarising the media.

Addressing the meetings were Ahmad Abushadi and Eduouard Maciejewski, senior officials of the Washington-based body. The seminar also involved panel discussions.

The topics that were dealt with at the seminar were "The Role and Functions of the IMF," "IMF-supported Macroeconomic Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment — an Evolving Process," "Economic Policy, Public Interest and the Role of the Media," "Design of IMF-supported Structural Programmes — Key Policy Instruments and Structural Reform Components," "Economic Reforms in the Arab Countries and Future Challenges," "The IAF and the Arab countries."

On Sunday, Osmal Al Ansari, advisor to the London-based Arab Bank for International Investment, addressed the gathering's concluding session and briefly outlined activities in the international securities market and related agencies.

Nabulsi reviews economic reforms

(Continued from page 12)

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Suicide explosions kill 18 in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

by a few seconds having joined those killed at the bus stop.

Mr. Arafat, who like Mr. Rabin has staked his political life on the self-rule accord, condemned the attack by the "enemies of peace."

The bombing was the bloodiest since another militant group, Hamas, sent a member on a suicide mission to Tel Aviv last October which killed 22 people.

At least 109 Israelis and 195 Palestinians have been killed since the September 1993 Israel-PLO deal.

Opposition leaders demanded an end to the peace talks and members of Mr. Rabin's own Labour Party voiced doubts about the negotiations although they stopped short of calling for their suspension.

U.S. President Bill Clinton condemned the bomb attack and said: "Once again, the enemies of peace have struck down innocent people in an evil effort to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Arabs."

Mr. Rabin convened an emergency cabinet session Sunday evening to determine the government's response.

The first step was a complete closure of the occupied territories, blocking the movement of all Palestinians into Israel. It has been the response after each similar attack and has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians away from jobs in Israel.

Mr. Rabin underscored the deepening concern about such carnage by making his first personal inspection tour of a suicide bombing site.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this action now is another attempt by the extreme Islamic terror groups to achieve their dual goal of killing Israelis and halting the peace process," he said.

Islamic Jihad also issued

leaflets in both Gaza and in Damascus claiming responsibility for the double-barrelled suicide mission.

"This operation is the genuine effort to the continuous daily expansion of the enemy's settling process in the West Bank and Jerusalem," Fathi Shikaki, secretary-general of the group, said in an interview with Al Noor radio in Beirut, Lebanon.

Most of the 18 Israelis killed and 62 wounded in Sunday's attack were soldiers, although the dead included at least one elderly civilian man.

Associated Press reporter Mike Rotem, one of the first journalists who arrived at the scene, said victims were groaning and calling for help.

The brunt of the explosion was taken by a single army company, one of a special unit deployed to guard bus stops, especially on Sundays when they are crowded with troops returning from weekend furloughs.

Kit bags, jackets and the red berets of the elite paratrooper unit, many of them bloodstained, lay scattered among the broken glass and other debris after the blast. Religious medical teams combed the ground and the trees for scattered bits of flesh, since Jewish law requires all body parts to be buried.

"There was a huge explosion. We came outside and saw everything was charred. As I moved toward the snack bar, I saw body parts, heads, arms, a God-awful scene," said eyewitness Haim Herskovitz.

Bella Zioni, 42, who owns the snack shop, was inside with her husband and son and at first thought she had been knocked to the floor by an electric shock.

"By the time I was able to

get up there was another explosion. Again, the entire roof collapsed and the solar panels fell on me," she said from her hospital bed.

The explosion erupted at the Beit Lid junction, also known as the Sharon junction near the coastal town of Netanya, about 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT). The site, named after an Arab village that once stood, there is 30 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv and about 10 kilometres from the West Bank.

The blast occurred across the street from Ashmore prison, where Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, has been serving a life sentence since 1989 for ordering the killing of Israeli informants and other activities against the occupation.

Officials said the two explosions were about three minutes apart.

Survivors reported a man wearing a uniform doubled over as if to throw up who they believe exploded the first bomb outside the snack bar. When soldiers rushed up to see what happened the second bomb erupted.

The bombs are believed constructed by a fugitive Palestinian chemist and Hamas member named Yehia Ayash, nicknamed "the engineer." He is believed to have built the bombs in a number of similar attacks, including the one in Tel Aviv in October that killed 22 people.

Arafat aides said he phoned Mr. Rabin to condemn the attack and express his condolences.

"Every time we make progress in the negotiations... some people carry out criminal acts aimed at stopping this progress," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

Ex-Soviet Central Asia embraces Islam — but carefully

By Julia Rubin
The Associated Press

FERGANA VALLEY, Uzbekistan — Ortikali Utanov, a schoolteacher and farmer, proudly ticks off the signs of Islamic revival in his village in the rural heart of former Soviet Central Asia.

Since Uzbekistan broke free from Moscow three years ago, the village has a new mosque, schools offer Arabic and newspapers sing the praises of Central Asia's Islamic heyday, back before Russian conquerers arrived.

And yet, mosque attendance is low in Sharbonchak, and Mr. Utanov himself rarely goes. Many students elect to study English rather than Arabic. Some villagers are tiring of the media blitz, eyeing it with the scepticism they used against a lifetime of Soviet propaganda.

"It's nice we have independence and can learn about our culture," Mr. Utanov said, sitting on floor cushions at the table in his mud-walled house. "We've always been Muslims, though."

The new nations of Central Asia are rediscovering Islam after decades of stifling Soviet rule. But they are cautious, even in a cradle of tradition like the Fergana Valley where Mr.

Utanov lives, tucked between snowy mountain ranges not far west of China.

Russian and Western observers fear this volatile corner of Uzbekistan, the most populous of the new Central Asian nations, could be the hotbed from which Islamic extremism might conquer the region, filling the vacuum left by communism.

It isn't happening yet.

One reason is that people in Uzbekistan are scared of any unrest that could turn their country into another Afghanistan or Tajikistan, southern neighbours that have been devastated by civil war.

Uzbekistan's president, Islam Karimov, plays on those fears to crush religious extremism and any other dissent, while at the same time using Islam to shore up his government's legitimacy.

It is a delicate balancing act for the former Communist Party boss, who now makes pilgrimages and sprinkles his speeches with references to Allah.

Meanwhile, living standards are declining, which could someday do more to fuel an Islamic opposition than any Mujahadeen fighting across the border.

Priests are climbing, and staples at affordable prices are rationed. Bus service

has almost stopped. The government has stopped delivering some things the Soviets did provide, at least sporadically, such as medicine and winter fuel.

"Karimov knows he's not going to solve his Islamic problem by making speeches against mullahs. He's got to provide food," said Barnett Rubin, director of Columbia University's Centre for the Study of Central Asia.

Mr. Karimov has banned Islamic political parties and frequently points towards Afghanistan and the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan to justify his iron rule.

The Soviets fought a long, losing war with Islamic militants in Afghanistan. Today, Tajikistan's pro-Moscow government claims some of those mujahadeen are arming Tajik rebel groups.

Uzbek troops are helping Tajik and Russian government forces guard the Afghan border.

The kind of Islam that Mr. Karimov is promoting is the conservative, village Islam seen where Mr. Utanov lives: Light on scripture, heavy on folk customs and the glory days of the silk road trade route, roughly the 7th to 17th centuries.

In a country that already was poor by Soviet stan-

dards and is now reeling from economic dislocation, pollution and other problems, the revival of Islam and Uzbek pride is one of the few gains the government can point to.

Thousands of mosques have been built in the past three years, the Holy Koran has been translated into Uzbek, and monuments to Central Asian conquerors and scholars are being erected.

"The main task is to raise a healthy and honest generation," said Usman Khan, imam at a sparkling new mosque and religious school near Samarkand.

While he spoke with a reporter, birds sang in the lush garden and men drank tea on wooden platforms under old maples. In the village outside, female students walked home from classes fully veiled, a rare sight in Uzbekistan five years ago.

Pakistan contributed to building the mosque, an example of the new money and interest Islamic countries have in Uzbekistan.

Mr. Karimov is looking to them and to the West, China and Russia for help with gradual free-market reforms.

People in Uzbekistan are afraid to talk with strangers about Mr. Karimov. But the balance he has struck with Islam, at least,

appears to have support, especially in Tashkent, a diverse capital that was the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union.

The harassed opposition in exile finds rare common ground with Mr. Karimov on the question of Islamic extremism.

"Even Karimov is better than civil war," Abdumajid Pulatov, a human rights activist who fled Mr. Karimov's government, said in an interview in Moscow. "In a civil war, there wouldn't be tens of political prisoners as there are now, but tens of thousands."

In Mr. Utanov's village, religious passions are kept in check not only by fears of Tajikistan-style unrest, but also by memories of the ethnic violence that killed hundreds in a nearby part of the Fergana Valley in 1990.

"That we don't want," Mr. Utanov says, pointing towards Tajikistan.

To him, being Muslim means following old Uzbek traditions. In his house, heads are covered, and at meals everybody makes gestures of thanks to Allah.

"Religion is not very developed here," said another teacher, Khidoyat Kambayeva, who, like virtually all village women, wears a headscarf. "Mainly old people follow religion."

U.S. policy-makers fear new isolationist trend

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. foreign policy-makers are worried about a new tide of isolationism they see sweeping across America and, in particular, warning support for the idea that the country needs to be involved in European security.

As public servants, they are reluctant to take political sides, but there is little doubt that the Republican takeover of Congress this month, which has brought a number of right-wingers to prominent positions, has boosted their fears.

The long agony of Bosnia and the more recent debacle of the Russian attack on Chechnya have also done much to spread the notion that, now that the Soviet nuclear threat has passed, the United States should stay away from Europe's such.

Such views represent a serious obstacle to State Department personnel and other officials engaged in trying to build what they call a new European "architecture" to replace the East-West divide of the cold war.

Government leaders from President Bill Clinton downwards insist that they

can work with Congress, which in any case has only limited power to alter foreign policy. But it is the public mood more than the Congress itself that concerns them.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke told a meeting of officials and analysts this week that there was "overwhelming scepticism" about the idea that U.S. national interests require an engaged international security policy.

Senators had "told me flatly that that simple truth is the one thing they can't sell to their constituents," sources present quoted Mr. Holbrooke as saying.

"While we in this room can agree about the policy of NATO expansion, or how to deal with Chechnya, to the American body politic it's all crap," he said. "They don't want any part of it."

Despite this, officials say the administration will press ahead with the policy of admitting East European nations to NATO at some undefined future date and boosting the 52-nation Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The obstacles are foreign as well as domestic. The three-year-old Bosnian war

shows no sign of ending and Russia has objected strongly to the NATO expansion plan.

The war in Chechnya — where Russian President Boris Yeltsin claimed Thursday to have crushed a rebellion after a bloody five-week onslaught — has raised doubts over whether Washington should still treat him as a strategic ally.

"We are trying to create a new security architecture while parts of the house are on fire," Mr. Holbrooke conceded.

But to Washington there is no alternative and not only because European countries, Washington believes, are still looking for American leadership.

In the U.S. view, NATO cannot remain an exclusive Western club, while to drop Mr. Yeltsin means risking the loss of all the cooperation achieved with Russia since the cold war. At worst, it could mean a return to nuclear confrontation.

Many critics, however, both in and out of Congress, question the administration's assumptions.

At the moment, the main challenge to the Clinton foreign policy is shaping up as an assault on its foreign aid programme — of which

Russia is a leading beneficiary — and the Agency for International Development (AID) which administers it.

Jesse Helms, a conservative North Carolina Republican and the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has charged that much aid goes down "foreign rat holes," and one bill already before Congress wants to abolish aid and slash foreign assistance.

Some, though far from all, Republicans are opposed to sending U.S. troops to patrol the Golan Heights in the event of a peace deal between Israel and Syria, though a U.S. presence is widely considered the linchpin of any agreement.

Government officials are fighting back, but AID administrator Brian Atwood admits a problem of perception. Most Americans, he said this week, think 20 per cent of their dollars go for foreign aid, while the real figure is less than one-half of one per cent.

A worried administration is looking at plans to merge AID and another independent body, the arms control and disarmament agency, into the state department.

Publicly, Mr. Clinton rejects a new isolationism. In a speech in Cleveland, Ohio, last week he blamed such a U.S. policy after World War I for encouraging the rise of Nazism and other extremist ideologies in Europe.

Mr. Clinton told a conference on trade and investment in Eastern and Central Europe that it was tempting for Americans to say "look, we've got more problems than we can handle here at home, so let's just forget about the rest of the world."

But, he went on, "the whole future of the world and the future of our children here in the United States depend on our continued involvement and leadership in the world."

Some foreign affairs groups, however, such as the Coalition for American Leadership Abroad, fear Mr. Clinton himself may succumb to similar temptations.

In a letter to the president this week, signed by leaders of 11 think-tanks and pressure groups, the coalition urged him to shun "pre-emptive capitulation to isolationist voices across the nation and on Capitol Hill."

Rains hinder rescue efforts

(Continued from page 1)

(\$1.5 billion), insurance agents have told Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

The bill, if confirmed, would be one of the heaviest marine claims to hit the market from a single disaster in its three centuries of operations, the weekly paper said.

Kobe steel owners set up their own patrols after looting broke out in the city's biggest shopping mall, the first outbreak since the disaster in Japanese society's acclaimed civility.

Around 10 million yen (\$100,000) worth of goods were taken from the town centre mall, shopowners said Sunday.

Japan's bungled attempt to cope with the quake has been highlighted by reported arguments within the bureaucracy over whether it was a "particularly terrible disaster" or not.

Designating a disaster as "particularly terrible" determines how much money is allocated to the victims by the central government.

The National Land Agency first proposed cheap loans to small and medium-sized businesses to help them recover from the quake, the Mainichi Shimbun reported over the weekend.

But the agency backed down on Friday, saying there was not enough time to complete the necessary paperwork, the newspaper said.

The government then de-

cided at a subsequent cabinet meeting that the quake should be "dealt with in the same manner as that officially designated as a particularly terrible disaster," Mainichi said.

A British rescue team and the country's first consignment of relief supplies are scheduled to arrive on Monday, while Australia will start delivering 200,000 litres (52,000 gallons) of bottled mineral water the same day.

A 66-year-old man and a 78-year-old woman were rescued Sunday after spending 128 hours buried in the debris.

Doug Copp of the American rescue team based in San Francisco said there was a "good possibility" that more survivors would still be found. But rains dampened hopes.

Rescuers from the United States and France used tracking dogs to comb the rubble of a collapsed elevated railway station but found neither bodies nor survivors.

"So far we've come up with zero" in two days of searching, said Carolyn Hebard, who works with a German shepherd named Pascha.

Heavy rain fell for most of the day Sunday, raising fears of landslides and shifting debris. Police evacuated hundreds of people from about 34 landslide-prone neighbourhoods.

But no major mud slides were reported by Sunday night, and the forecast called for skies to clear Monday afternoon.

Grozny under fire

(Continued from page 1)

Russian Jiguli sedan doing a sudden about-turn at the weekend just before a roadblock.

The five fighters inside were apparently trying to get to nearby Bamut which is being bombed by the Russians. But they nearly ran into a roadblock manned by supporters of multimillionaire Beslan Gantemirov, a sworn enemy of Mr. Dudayev.

Just 10 kilometres away, it was the opposite story. Residents of a small village in the Chatoi region stopped the Gantemirov supporters from ferrying arms towards Grozny, apparently to pro-Russian partisans.

Arietta, who lost her son in the fighting last week, told AFP: "We couldn't let them pass. It's shameful for Chechnya to help the Russians."

In Moscow hundreds of people gathered near the headquarters of the Soviet Union's former KGB security police on Sunday to mourn the victims of Russia's bloody attempt to crush tiny Chechnya's independence bid.

Former reform chief Yegor Gaidar and human rights commissioner Sergei Kovalev both called for an end to the seven-week campaign.

Israeli cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

thorise public investment on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for public building and infrastructure such as schools, kindergartens and clinics. It would also examine private building plans.

Six ministers abstained in a vote on the decision, but no one opposed it.

The committee will review housing ministry plans.

They include a project to build 7,500 homes for Palestinians as well as 4,000 for Israelis in and around Jerusalem this year, Israel radio reported.


By the end of the year 7,500 homes would be ready for Palestinians in the areas of Shufat, Abu Dis and Al Azzariyaha, the radio said.

At the same time 1,080 units would be built in Maale Adumim, 800 in Givat Zeev, 900 in Betar and several dozen in Givon Hadasha, all settlements outside Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin pledged last week in talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that a freeze on government spending for settlement building would be effective and that no more land would be seized for houses.

The pledge came after Palestinian calls to halt the autonomy negotiations and resignation threats by left-wing ministers over settlement construction.

A partial freeze on settlements announced by Mr. Rabin after winning the 1992 general elections was not applied to "greater Jerusalem."



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World Bank remains upbeat on private money flows to developing world

PARIS (AFP) — Private capital flows into developing countries hit an estimated record \$173 billion last year, a four-fold increase from 1989, and Mexico's finance crisis is unlikely to reverse the upward trend, the World Bank affirmed Sunday.

It said developing countries' share in global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose sharply to 37 per cent of the total in 1993, from 29 per cent in 1992, with China emerging as the world's largest single recipient of foreign investment, reporting inflows totalling \$26 billion. Presenting its annual report on developing country debt and financial flows, senior World Bank economist said the massive expansion of private flows was rooted in "real economic transformation" including the globalisation activity, trade liberalisation and privatisation.

Investors' flight from Mexico after the bungled year-end peso devaluation reflected a "very specific" Mexican problem, Malvina Pollock, coauthor of the report, told reporters here.

After initial "panic" on the markets — including turmoil in Asia — they were likely to realise that this did not threaten the financial system, as did the Third World debt crisis when it erupted a decade ago, she said.

The World Bank projected an overall 1994 net resource flow of \$227 billion to the developing world, an all-time high.

But this would be only a "modest" rise over the 1993

figure of \$213 billion, which marked a 40 per cent jump from 1992 to more than twice the 1990 level of \$103 billion.

The World Bank linked this to a sharp slowdown in net long-term private capital flows, which were up by just under 9.0 per cent after a massive 55 per cent rise in 1993 to \$159 billion.

It said the slowdown was due to price corrections in some overvalued emerging markets, fuelled by rising U.S. interest rates from early in 1994, which triggered turmoil in the bond markets, and "adverse political and economic developments" in some developing countries.

The virtual explosion of private flows in 1993 was due mainly to economic reforms in many developing countries, which restored their creditworthiness in the wake of the commercial debt crisis, now in its "twilight" phase, it said.

A "spectacular" surge in portfolio equity investment which reached \$47 billion in 1993, a 13-fold increase from 1989, was a key feature, spurred by financial liberalisation, easier foreign access to emerging stock markets and large-scale privatisations.

But the World Bank projected a decline last year \$39.5 billion in this component, as market corrections cooled the enthusiasm for such investment.

Bond issues by developing countries on the international capital market more than doubled in 1993 to a gross total of \$53 billion.

But the World Bank forecast a decline to \$50 billion in

1994 in the wake of the turbulence that hit world bond markets as U.S. interest rates turned up.

The declines in these two sectors were likely to be largely offset, however, by a continued steady expansion of FDI, which rose by 42 per cent in 1993 to \$67 billion and should increase moderately to \$78 billion in 1994.

Asian middle income countries secured about 56 per cent of these non-debt-creating flows while another 25 per cent went to Latin America, the World Bank said.

Private capital now accounts for three-quarters of all long-term flows to the developing world, up from 44 per cent in 1990, the report said.

Official aid, on the other hand, has more or less stagnated at about \$54.5 billion, after peaking at just under \$62 billion in 1991 in the wake of the Gulf war.

While most low-income countries, including Sub-Saharan Africa, more and more rely on official development finance, most private flows went to 20-odd East Asian and Latin American middle-income countries.

But Asia's two low-income giants, China and India — with a 1993 per capita GNP of respectively \$490 and \$290 — also benefitted from these flows.

The World Bank said developing nations' overall, which stood at \$658 billion in 1980, was just short of the \$2,000 billion mark at end-1994.

Information projected as vital for growth

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Ministers of the Saudi-led Gulf alliance have agreed on measures that will lower interferences on telecommunications frequencies, especially in border areas, the secretary-general announced.

Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said that the ministers also agreed that telephone revenues will be split between initiator and receiving countries. Previously, the initiator country kept the revenues.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in a 13-year-old alliance seeking gradual movement toward a European-style common market.

Other decisions at the conference chaired by Bahrain's Transport Minister Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, included setting up a committee to study unification of postal fees, and ratifying a programme for training of workers in the telecommunications field.

The ministers of transport, communications, post, telegraphs and telephones met on the sidelines of the 8th Middle East Electronic Communications Show and Conference that Bahrain hosts every two years. The event, which brings together international experts and latest products in the field, is accompanied by a separate show and conference on the latest in electronic and broadcasting technology.

Information technology was projected as vital for national economic growth as the high-level conferences aimed at meeting the needs of the Gulf's fast growing communications and broad-

casting industries went underway earlier in the day.

"Information in the 21st century will be vital for national economic growth," said Bahrain's transport minister.

Greg Nelson, vice president and general manager of Motorola's European, Middle-East and Africa paging products division, was even more specific.

"The world is on the brink of what will become known as the great age of telecommunications," he told the conference in a keynote address. "Around the world we see emerging economies place telecommunications at the top of their priority lists."

Sheikh Khalifa noted that Bahrain has joined forces with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — to install a fiber optic link across the Gulf, named Fog.

The cable will connect eventually with the global fiber link known as Flag, he said.

Bahrain also took a share in the sea-me-we II cable which runs from Singapore to France, he said.

Mr. Nelson said the telecommunications industry was forecast to be worth \$3 trillion by the year 2010.

The Middle East is experiencing health growth as oil economies diversify, Lebanon rebuilds after a 15-year civil war, and the Palestinians settle into autonomy, all creating a market for modern communications of all types, he said.

Motorola estimated that Bahrain, an island of half a million, had 55,000 pagers in use, and that today there were over 50 million pagers in use around the world.

Oman seeks to end budget deficit by year 2000 — official

MUSCAT (R) — Oman, a small Gulf oil producer, intends to bring its budget deficit to zero in the next five-year development plan which starts in 1996, a World Bank official said Sunday.

Ram Chopra, director of the bank's Middle East and North Africa division, spoke to reporters after talks with Oman's Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and Omani officials on the economy.

He said Sultan Qaboos "is very committed to making sure that in the next development plan (1996-2000) budget deficits are to be brought to zero," he said. "Oman like other countries in the Gulf has been facing budgetary difficulties."

Mr. Chopra's visit was linked to giving the Arab Gulf state advice on planning a conference Oman is to hold in June to address its domestic economic policies.

He said he was "satisfied

that it is fully released in Oman that action needs to be taken to address the issues of budget difficulties, increasing public savings..."

World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports last year said Oman needed to cut spending and raise revenues to reduce unsustainable budget deficits.

Oman has started implementing some of the ideas in the World Bank report, many of which emerged when a team visited Oman in early 1993, including giving the private sector a greater role.

Spending and the deficit were budgeted to rise slightly this year, Oman said in January it expects its 1995 budget deficit to rise to 312 million riyals (\$810.3 million) from 301 million riyals (\$781.8 million) in 1994.

Oman's 1994 actual budget deficit appears to have been cut by close to a quarter from

1993 — figures for the first 10 months of each year show a decline to 237 million riyals (\$616 million) from 310 million (\$806 million).

Current spending also rose, the opposite of what the IMF and World Bank recommended.

The current spending increase included a rise in defence spending to 667 million riyals (\$1.73 billion) in 1995 from 612 million (\$1.59 billion) in 1994. That is a 28 per cent share of total budgeted spending of 2.16 billion riyals (\$5.62 billion).

Mr. Chopra said Oman needs to place special emphasis on employment and the labour sector.

Its population is growing at 3.5 to 3.9 per cent per year, among the highest in the Middle East. Half the population is 15 or under, young Omanis who will soon be seeking jobs.

Rampant statistics fraud hampers China's planning

BEIJING (AFP) — China has uncovered more than 70,000 cases of statistics fraud in the past seven months, Xinhua has said, reflecting a growing trend that is severely hampering macro-economic planning.

More than 20,000 of the cases involved "false reports, deceptions, forgeries and distortions," the official news agency said, citing sources involved in a joint national inspection by the State Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Supervision and the State Council's Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

According to the investigation, a large number of officials across the country are turning in falsified economic data for industrial output, investment and per capita income, as well as bogus population figures.

The trend has grown in recent years with the practice of awarding bonuses or promotions to cadres who

can claim major successes in implementing central socio-economic policies in their regions.

"As a matter of fact, figures have become the decisive factor in getting promotion in some areas, and once you are promoted in that way, you tend to keep on reporting false figures," said a participant at a national statistics working conference in Beijing.

Fabricating statistics had disastrous consequences in China during the 1958 Great Leap Forward when officials — faced with unachievable agricultural and industrial output targets — falsified crop figures and helped plunge the country into a famine that killed millions.

More than 32,000 cases involved officials delaying or simply refusing to make reports, Xinhua said, decrying what it described as "this deplorable phenomenon."

German unions, employers seek compromise in pay round

BONN (R) — German trade unions have signalled ahead of this year's pay round and a key meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl that they are ready to stop considering pay cuts as taboo if it means attacking high unemployment.

Employers have also said, in a country where consensus between the two sides has been the key to post-war economic success, that they could be prepared to compromise if unions agree to give up some rigid working practices.

The newspaper Sonntag-Express quoted an unnamed union chief as saying that accepting pay cuts would be the price to pay for a long-standing demand by the unions — further cuts in working times which are already the shortest in Europe.

Unions hope cuts in hours could be used to create more

jobs or at least safeguard existing ones, as in a ground-breaking model agreed with Volkswagen A.G. (V.W.) car workers last year.

"Under certain conditions we would give up our principle of shorter hours with full pay," the union chairman said. "Shorter working hours cost money. We are ready to accept pay cuts to cover these costs if the employers commit themselves in writing to employ correspondingly more workers."

Roland Isen, chairman of the D.G. white-collar union, added: "We have to accept that shorter working times can't be achieved on full pay."

The sacrifice of what has been a sacred cow to the unions is a recognition that economic recovery has hardly dented the ranks of more than 3.5 million unemployed in Germany and that firms

used the recession to rationalise and cut labour needs.

Last year the chemicals union I.G. Chemie agreed to a low two per cent pay rise in exchange for job security. Workers at Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, saved 30,000 jobs by agreeing to a four-day week with corresponding pay cuts.

But ominously, V.W. says it has rationalised so far that the jobs will have to go sooner or later. And more and more manufacturers are building their new factories outside Germany.

Union bosses met last week to prepare a paper for their meeting with Mr. Kohl Wednesday. The gathering could set the tone for this spring's pay talks and — so unions and employers hope — avert a repeat of 1994's engineering sector pay strikes.

EUROPARTINARIAT Dortmund, Germany 1995

Announcement
By
Jordan Export Development & Commercial
Centres Corporation JEDCO

To the Business Community. As a Europartinariat (a European Business Partnership Organising Scheme) National Counselor, we invite you to participate in the:

Europartinariat Nordrhein-Westfalen 1995

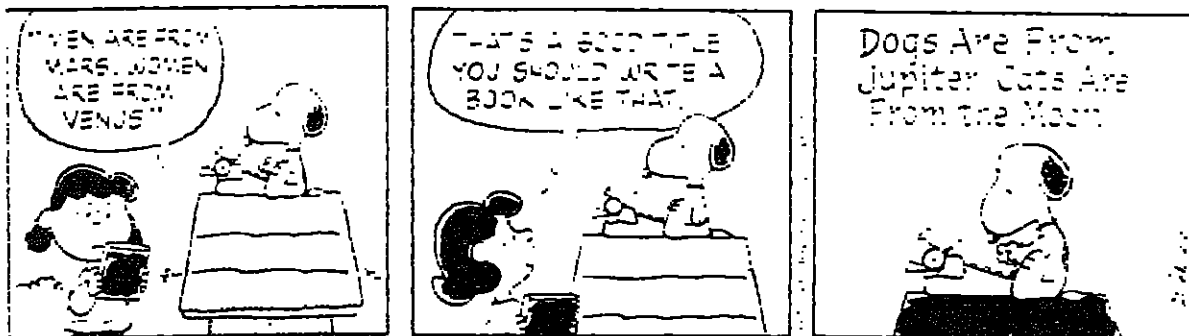
Which will take place in the city of Dortmund-Germany during the period 20-21/3/1995, with over 350 German companies from the following sectors will be participating in this event:

- 01) Building.
- 02) Textiles & clothing.
- 03) Food products & beverages.
- 04) Metal working & processing.
- 05) Electrical engineering, electronics.
- 06) Services, research and development.
- 07) Furniture, wood, paper, printing industry.
- 08) Trade mediation, wholesale and retail trade.
- 09) Process, measuring and control engineering, optics.
- 10) Chemical industry, plastic products, glass & ceramics
- 11) Mechanical engineering, plant and motor vehicle engineering

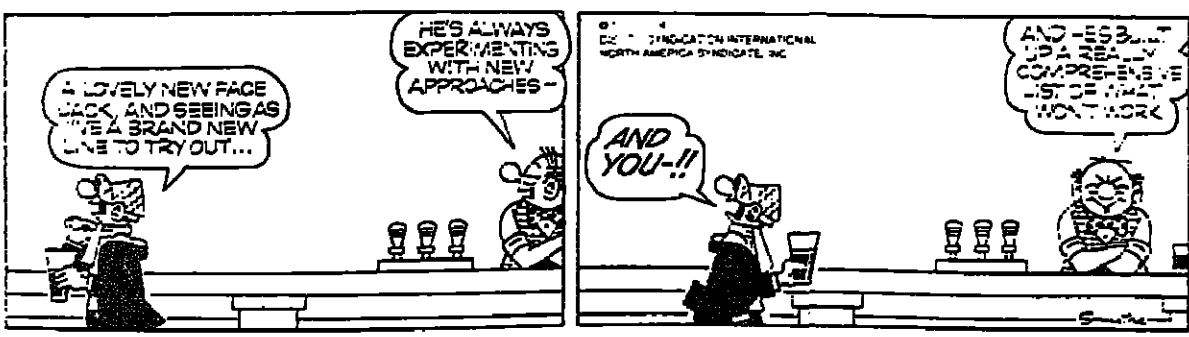
Participating German companies will be ready to go into partnership business deals and joint ventures with interested Jordanian businessmen. This will cover all areas of technical, commercial and service partnership.

For more information, please call our Marketing Department at (603507), or visit our offices located behind the Ministry of Industry & Trade.

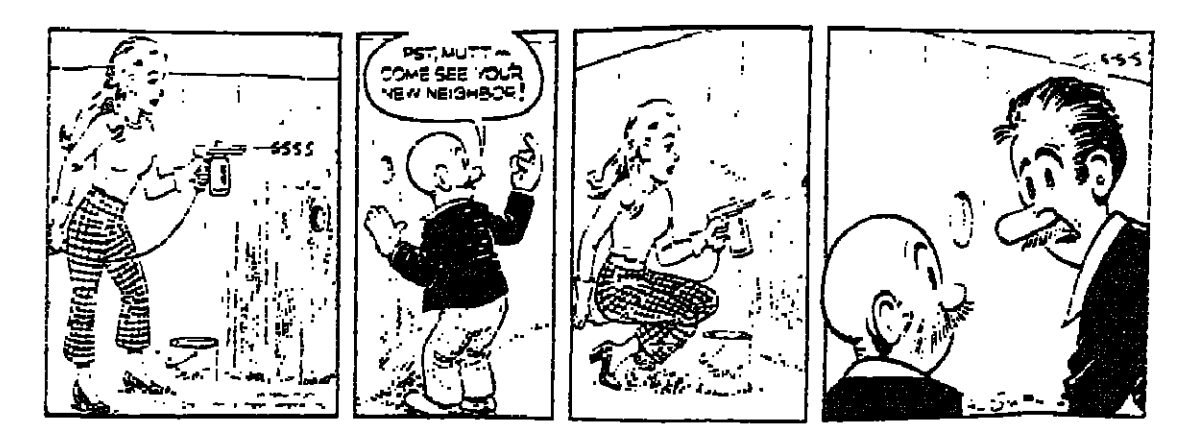
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NASPY

GINOG

QUINUE

NAHVIS

We've got a caller, but first this message...

Now arrange the coded letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YIELD ANNUL FIXING GATHER

Answer: Now the handman's shoddy work left the home owner — UNHINGED

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

- 1 Participant
- 2 Yegg's target
- 3 Picture card
- 4 "Pier" (14)
- 5 Prize
- 6 Cultural
- 7 beginning
- 8 Orion's brightest
- 9 Wrennet or wren
- 10 Out of port
- 11 Ethnology
- 12 Follow closely
- 13 Fabric pattern
- 14 Louvre
- 15 Venus
- 16 Pacific island
- 17 Fabrication
- 18 Flowering plant
- 19 Group
- 20 Sortie, e.g.
- 21 Dine
- 22 Failing to
- 23 Light shades
- 24 "I say, no!"
- 25 Rocker's phobia?
- 26 Mura
- 27 Morse
- 28 Not hidden
- 29 Acronym
- 30 Came to earth
- 31 Bin
- 32 Vast proposition
- 33 Live lampreys
- 34 Thrash
- 35 That guy

DOWN

- 1 Phobias
- 2 Rapid pace
- 3 Forum track
- 4 Opening offers
- 5 Libration
- 6 Descriptive
- 7 Part of UAE
- 8 In favor of
- 9 Nav. rank
- 10 Quies
- 11 "I want... just like..."
- 12 Have a yen
- 13 Actor Richard
- 14 Labor group
- 15 Daisycutter
- 16 Late fish
- 17 Came to earth
- 18 Bin
- 19 Most offbeat
- 20 Drove sound
- 21 Outmoded
- 22 Glassy stone
- 23 Plant with priority leaves
- 24 Letter closer
- 25 "Kareena"
- 26 Party: prel.
- 27 Bombard
- 28 Laurel
- 29 Gist
- 30 Wrath

Puzzle solved:

YIELD ANNUL FIXING GATHER

business & daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

No capital gain tax

"First class" officials said that the income tax law was withdrawn that did not include a capital gain tax and would not differentiate between individuals and companies, is being prepared (Al Aswaq).

Amman was selected as the secretariat of the Development Fund group which was after the multinational companies on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Aswaq).

Loans and grants extended by the Development Fund last year totalled JD 810, that financed 813 projects and created 1,329 jobs opportunities. Since its inception in 1991, until the end of 1994, it financed JD 4,840; it created 4,930 jobs opportunities, 32.7 per cent of the credits benefitted in Amman while per cent financed projects. Madaba's share was 8.2 per cent while Zarqa followed with 6.6 per cent and 6.4 per cent (Al Aswaq).

International prices of goods have risen from a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne, as such, tahineh prices rose to JD 1.45 per kg, compared to JD 1.00 previously. With prices of tahineh going up, the price of a plate of meat is expected to go up (Al Aswaq).

The number of computer users exceeds 350, with possible presence in Garma Street (Wasfi Al Tal). However, only 10 of these users are able to enter tenders. With high demand for computers from the government ministry, the computer sector is said to remain active in the future (Al Aswaq).

Coffee prices went down in average of JD 1 per kg. As a result, a gramme now costs JD 5.5, official source at the Ministry of Supply said the price was continuing its rise to traders to further raise prices to JD 4.5 a gramme as coffee prices falling internationally (Al Aswaq).

Zarqa Educational and Training Company is planning subscription for shares floated to all its shareholders registered on 1995. The new shares, at JD 1,200 (JD par value) and 200 fils premium, total of the company by JD 1.4 million. Shareholders must buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Aswaq).

The Zarqa Municipality is planning its 1995 budget which is expected to be around the same level of JD 6.7 million. The municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a budget of JD 5.3 million, figures representing 77 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts allocated in the budget (Al Aswaq).

Royal Jordanian announced starting the modernization of its cargo fleet, which consists of three cargo ships. Royal Jordanian carried 55,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994, 1.5 per cent more than previous year. The fleet is expected to be replaced by 8,800 tonnes (Al Aswaq).

The Ministry of Education agreed with the central bank on issuing special support the housing fund. The mechanism involves teachers to obtain loans from the fund which is carried out through the Housing Bank (Al Aswaq).

6

Business & Finance

Italian police seize 13 million fake dollars

MILAN, Italy (R) — Italian police seized 13 million fake U.S. dollars in a major operation. The fake bills, which were printed on high-quality paper, were found in a warehouse in the northern town of Mantova. The police believe the fake bills were intended for export to other countries.

Police arrest Italian Mafia fugitive

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A Mafia fugitive who had been on the wanted list for years was arrested by police in Rio de Janeiro. The man, who was believed to be involved in several high-profile crimes, was caught after a long chase. He is now being held in custody.

Snow scooter owners protest against environmentalists

LAKESIDE, N.J. (R) — Snow scooter owners in Lakewood, New Jersey, are protesting against environmentalists who are trying to ban the use of the vehicles. The owners claim that the scooters are a safe and convenient mode of transport in winter weather.

Non-Jewish student suspended for wearing star of David

MENDON, Michigan — A high school student in Mendon, Michigan, was suspended for wearing a star of David on his clothing. The school principal claimed that the star was a religious symbol and that its use was inappropriate in a public school setting.

China attempts control lottery

BEIJING (R) — Chinese officials are attempting to control the lottery market in the country. They claim that the current market is unregulated and that there is a need for a more organized system.

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

'No capital gain tax'

★ ★ "First class" official sources said that the income tax draft law was withdrawn and that a new draft, which would not include a capital gain tax and would not differentiate between individuals and companies, is being prepared (Al Aswaaq).

★ ★ Amman was selected as the site for the secretariat of the economy development working group which was formed after the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ Loans and grants extended by the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) last year totaled JD 3,283,910, that financed 813 projects and created 1,329 jobs. The fund's overall lending since its inception in 1991, until the end of 1994, reached JD 10,347,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,930 jobs (Al Aswaaq).

★ ★ International prices of sesame seeds have risen from \$750 a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne and, as such, tahinih (sesame paste) factories raised their prices to JD 1.45 a kilogramme, compared to JD 1.000 previously. With the prices of tahinih going up, the price of a plate of hummus is expected to go up too (Al Aswaaq).

★ ★ The number of computer businesses exceeds 350, with a noticeable presence in Garden Street (Wafiq Al Tal). However, only 10 of these businesses are able to enter large tenders. With high demand for computers from banks and government ministries, the computer sector is expected to remain active in the near future (Al Aswaaq).

★ ★ Coffee prices went down by an average of JD 1 per kilogramme. As a result, a kilogramme now costs JD 5. An official source at the Ministry of Supply said the ministry was continuing its demands to traders to further lower prices to JD 4.5 a kilogramme as coffee prices are falling internationally (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ Zaqra Educational and Investment Company is accepting subscription for new shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 1,200 (JD par value and 200 JDs premium), reflect the increase in the value of the company by JD 5.1 million. Shareholders cannot buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 8, 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ The Zaqra Municipality is finalising its 1995 budget which is expected to be around the same level of 1994, JD 6.7 million. The municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a revenue of JD 5.3 million, the figures representing 77 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts estimated in the budget (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ Royal Jordanian announced starting the modernisation of its cargo fleet, which consists of three Boeing 707s. Royal Jordanian carried 55,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994, 1.5 per cent more than previous year. The cargo fleet is expected to increase flight hours to 8,800 this year (Al Ra'i).

★ ★ The Ministry of Education has agreed with the central bank on issuing special bonds to raise JD20 million to support the housing fund for teachers. The mechanism for the teachers to obtain housing loans from the fund will be carried out through the Housing Bank (Al Ra'i).

Hindu groups step up 'Buy Indian' campaign

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Right-wing Hindu groups which once advocated free trade are now urging Indians to shun foreign goods and "Buy Indian" in a stepped-up campaign against the government sweeping economic reforms.

Walls in the capital are scrawled with graffiti denouncing multinational corporations and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's efforts to globalise an Indian economy that remained largely sheltered until three-and-a-half years ago.

One of the slogans reminds people of a successful crusade against British products which Mahatma Gandhi waged during India's independence struggle in which bonfires were routinely made of foreign goods.

"We want to create a nationalist feeling that every nation has to evolve a mind of its own in economics," S. Gurumurthy, a convenor of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), National Awakening Forum, said in an interview.

"The integration of India with the rest of the world will be restricted to just one per cent of our population," he said, referring to criticism that only the elite have profited from the reforms initiated by New Delhi in June 1991.

"Our ideas are based on an alternative thinking," he said. "A nation should largely live within its means and produce for its own market with trans-country commerce restricted to its needs."

The SJM has been promoted by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), National Volunteer Corps, a powerful Hindu revivalist group and its allies that command hundreds of thousands of supporters.

Mr. Gurumurthy, dressed in a dhoti and a shawl, said the SJM wanted Indians to boycott foreign brands like during the country's independence campaign and go for only local products.

"If people do not buy the wasteful hundreds of multinational companies, they would be standing by their country," he said.

Mr. Gurumurthy, a chartered accountant and an RSS activist, said the inflow of foreign goods into the country would stifle domestic industry.

SJM pamphlets urge Indians to shun foreign-made products such as toothpaste, shaving cream, soaps and detergents, cosmetics, soft drinks, paint, canned food

and even crayons, and instead look for Indian alternatives.

The campaign began in November 1992, a year after the reforms got underway, but ebbed after a while. It has resumed with renewed vigour and on a nationwide scale.

"We are surprised at the response from the people," said Mr. Gurumurthy, adding that thousands have attended meetings in cities and towns called to popularise the campaign against globalisation.

"When we talk of (self-reliance), we are talking of the way an Indian mind approaches life, including economics," he said. "Our economists do not know the Indian ethos."

"We are advocating a savings-oriented society, a society based on conservation which cannot be based on exports-based models," Mr. Gurumurthy said. "The West cannot appreciate this."

Jordan National Shipping Lines profits JD 3.75m

AMMAN (R) — Jordan National Shipping Lines Company saw pre-tax profits soar nearly three fold in 1994 from the previous year, company officials said Sunday.

The company posted a record 3,750,000 dinars (\$8.39 million) in pre-tax profits during 1994 from JD 1,348,990 dinars (\$1.94 million) in 1993, a company official told Reuters.

Jordan National Shipping Lines Company is expected to distribute a 40 per cent dividend on par value of JD 1 (\$1.4) per share from 15 per cent in 1993, company sources said.

Its annual general meeting is in April. The company's record results came partly from JD 1 million (\$1.4 million) in profits from the sale of a 16,271 tonne multi-purpose vessel "Jordan 1" last year and a strong return on its investment portfolio.

Pre-tax profits JD 4.9 million (\$7 million) of investments rose to over JD 2 million (\$2.87 million) from JD 1.650 million (\$2.37 million) in 1993.

The company, with JD 7 million (\$10 million) capital, is 24 per cent held by the private sector with state-owned corporations holding the rest.

A blue chip share in the Amman Financial Market, it saw its price soar a third during 1994 to around 3,500 dinars (\$5).

Assets rose to around 18 million dinars (\$25.86 million) in 1994 from 15 million dinars (\$21.55 million) in 1993.

Expansion was delayed by the Gulf crisis when a U.S.-led fleet enforcing an U.N. embargo on Iraq discouraged maritime traffic to Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Jordan National Shipping Lines Company plans in 1995 to expand cargo routes now focused on northern European to the Gulf, India and the Far East.

Another reason is the introduction of mobile phones, which have exceeded 91,000 lines, including 30,000 on the GSM (Global System for Telecommunications Mobiles) system. Faxes and telegraphic services have also boomed.

Eisalat, set up in 1975, was wholly owned by the government until it sold off 40 per cent of its share to the public in the early 1980s. The move has enabled the company to make high profits despite repeated cuts in charges.

The business upswing, also spurred by Eisalat's monopoly of telecommunications services in the UAE, has prompted the company to consider buying its own satellite, although it is a subsidiary to ArabSat, a joint Arab satellite venture that has put three satellites in orbit over the past decade.

A preliminary survey carried out by Eisalat recently showed its satellite would cost around 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million) but it was not clear when it would be bought or who would supply it.

Eisalat officials said the capital increase would come from the company's own resources, adding they had decided to distribute bonus shares to shareholders.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 16 - January 20, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against European currencies at the end of last week, while appreciating against the yen. It ended the week 1.51 per cent lower against the mark, 1.29 per cent lower against sterling and 0.85 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar retreated against the mark and yen Monday, while stabilising against sterling. The dollar's decline was attributed to dealers' concern that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) might postpone tightening its monetary policy. Analysts pointed out that the release of retail sales and inflation indicators showing slower growth, as well as the Mexican financial crisis might cause the FOMC not to tighten its monetary policy at its next meeting at the end of the month.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Tuesday, especially against the yen. The dollar rose on renewed expectations that the FOMC might tighten its monetary policy. These expectations were ignited upon the release of capacity utilisation figures showing an increase from 84.7 per cent in November to 85.4 per cent in December.

The dollar continued its appreciation against the mark and yen Wednesday, while depreciating marginally against sterling. The dollar's appreciation came on the back of continued expectations that the FOMC might tighten its monetary policy. These expectations were bolstered by the release of an economic survey and a statement by the vice chairman of the Federal Reserve. The survey showed that the U.S. economy is still experiencing accelerating growth that might result in inflation. Meanwhile, the vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank stated that he would support further tightening of monetary policy.

On Thursday, the dollar declined sharply against other major currencies. Its decline was due to capital flight from Japan to Europe. Analysts attributed this capital flight to investors' fear from the losses that Japanese companies might suffer as a result of the recent earthquake that hit Japan. The dollar also suffered from news that the Bundesbank did not lower its repo rate, contrary to dealers' expectations.

At the end of the week, the dollar continued its depreciation against European currencies, while appreciating against the yen. The dollar suffered from continued capital flows into marks. Dealers' worries that the Federal Reserve might intervene to support the Mexican currency also contributed to the dollar's weakness.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5116 marks, 99.42 yen and at \$1.5888 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	13/1/95	20/1/95	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5685	1.5558	1.29%
Deutsche Mark	1.5345	1.5116	1.51%
Swiss Franc	1.2890	1.2702	1.48%
French Franc	5.2965	5.2335	1.20%
Japanese Yen	98.55	99.42	10.88%

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 22/1/1995

Currency	13/1/1995	14/1/1995	15/1/1995	16/1/1995	17/1/1995	18/1/1995	19/1/1995	20/1/1995
U.S. Dollar	5.50	7.06	5.75	6.93				
Sterling Pound	5.75	7.25	5.81	6.37				
Deutsche Mark	4.68	5.56	4.68	5.62				
Swiss Franc	3.43	4.37	3.56	4.43				
French Franc	5.37	6.75	5.37	6.62				
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.50	2.06	2.37				

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 Jordanian Dinars or equivalent

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.1043	1.1098
Deutsche Mark	0.4582	0.4605
Swiss Franc	0.5475	0.5502
French Franc	0.1329	0.1336
Japanese Yen	0.6995	0.7030
Dutch Guilder	0.4102	0.4123
Swedish Krona	0.0437	0.0439
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0437	0.0439

Per 100

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	100	18400	182.500	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1750	7611	4.350	4.370
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	3989	17061	4.230	4.300
THE HOUSING BANK	4000	23719	5.900	5.950
JORDAN EDUAT BANK	65	298	3.050	3.050
JORDAN GULF BANK	800	784	1.850	1.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	23550	89666	3.760	3.820
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	150	652	4.360	4.340
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1750	5686	4.150	4.250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14620	21843	1.470	1.500
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	200	830	4.100	4.150
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	3860	6270	1.600	1.630
BANKS SECTOR	54534	192786	INDEX NUMBER: 159.39	CHANGE: +0.481
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	50	100	2.000	2.000
JORDAN SEAS INSURANCE	2000	4880	2.350	2.440
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	6000	2800	2.600	2.550
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1000	2730	2.730	2.730
INSURANCE SECTOR	9050	23510	INDEX NUMBER: 136.39	CHANGE: +0.217
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1800	2782	1.540	1.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	10000	14901	1.490	1.500
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	250	1713	6.750	6.850
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	100	492	4.850	4.920
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	33600	114821	3.300	3.440
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	28700	39409	1.230	1.240
JOHNSON WORLD TRADING & INVESTMENT	870	262	2.620	2.620
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	3600	8828	2.400	2.450
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	4400	15497	3.500	3.570
SERVICES SECTOR	83700	195357	INDEX NUMBER: 133.73	CHANGE: +1.512
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	120	2493	22.740	24.930
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1615	4746	2.930	2.940
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JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	140	1334	9.510	9.530
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	300	1290	4.300	4.300
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILLS	4666	3709	7.940	7.950
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	343	1832	5.320	5.350
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	200	546	2.750	2.730
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RAPIA INDUSTRIES	2500	6982	2.770	2.810
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1750	1820	1.030	1.040
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	152600	131186	0.850	0.870
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9600	13777	1.410	1.440
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JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	1400	2708	1.860	1.940
ARAB CENTER FOR FARM. & CHEMICALS	400	1087	2.670	2.720
UNIVERSAL MEDICAL INDUSTRIES	1400	1405	4.150	4.220
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6650	14498	2.150	2.180
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	194464	255532	INDEX NUMBER: 127.72	CHANGE: +0.602
GRAND TOTAL	341748	667195	INDEX NUMBER: 144.39	CHANGE: +0.521

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Australian Open Americans dominate men's field; Germans knocked out

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champion Pete Sampras shook off his lethargy just in time, rallying from two sets down Sunday to defeat Sweden's Magnus Larsson and seal a place in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Tennis Championships.

He was joined by fellow Americans Michael Chang and Jim Courier as the tournament took on a distinctly star-spangled look. Sampras was twice within two points of defeat in the third set against Larsson, but recovered to win 4-6, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours and seven minutes. It was one of the best comebacks of his career after a strangely sluggish start.

The American reversed his loss to Larsson in last month's Grand Slam Cup final in Munich. It was only the second time in his career that Sampras had come two sets down to win.

"I knew going into this match that I'd have to fight hard," Sampras said. "He was playing too good for me and if he'd maintained that level he would have pulled it out."

"I just hung in there. I wasn't playing my best tennis, but I found a way to pull through."

Sampras' coach Tim Gulikson was admitted to hospital two days ago after suffering from dizzy spells that could relate to two strokes he suffered late last year.

Sampras talked with Gulikson before the match, gaining some advice. "It's ironic. He was also in hospital when I played (Larsson) in Munich," Sampras said.

Larsson, who also led Sweden to victory over Russia in last month's Davis Cup final, served 19 aces, while Sampras slammed down 18 himself — 13 of them in the

last three sets. Chang, the No. 5 seed, continued his impressive run by advancing with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over unseeded Frenchman Olivier Delaite.

"It's been a good first four rounds," Chang said after breaking Delaite's serve six times. "I still feel very fresh."

Courier, the ninth seed and two-time champion, scored his fourth straight-sets victory by defeating Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 and will now face his friend and rival Sampras in the quarterfinals.

Courier broke Novacek's serve five times and won in just 85 minutes.

"I'm playing very well," Courier said. "I couldn't be happier with the way I'm hitting the ball. (I've been) sneaking through the draw."

Only Andrei Medvedev, the 20-year-old No. 13 seed from Ukraine, spoiled the American party.

Medvedev took 3½ hours to defeat unseeded American David Wheaton 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 10-8 and now plays Chang.

"It's one of the most important wins in my career and will stay in my mind for a long time," Medvedev said. "David was very unlucky not to finish it off (when he served) at 5-4 in the fifth."

The 24-year-old Larsson, whose best Grand Slam performance is making the semifinals at last year's French Open, had not made it past the second round in six previous appearances at the Australian Open.

The 15th seed has spent the past 12 months lifting his fitness under the guidance of coach Calle Hageskog and went into the match with the tactic of keeping the ball on Sampras' forehand. It almost worked.

The 6-foot-3-inch (1.92 metres) tall Larsson broke

Sampras' serve twice in the first set, using clubbing forehand winners to take it in 33 minutes.

There were no service breaks in the second set, but Larsson moved 5-2 ahead in the tiebreaker and served it out.

"He was playing flawless tennis the first two sets," Sampras said. "When I won the third set that was a huge turning point."

The third set went on serve until Sampras broke in the 11th game and the American needed just one break — in the seventh game — to take out the fourth, which he clinched with an ace.

Sampras then took an early break in the decisive set and held on. Larsson, who had been so judicious with his placement in the first two sets began to make a catalogue of errors.

"I can't play much better than I did today. I don't think I would have lost to too many players, but he's No. 1 in the World," Larsson said.

"I don't know if he was playing badly or not, but I put a lot of pressure on him," Conchita Martinez, the No. 2 seed from Spain and the current Wimbledon champion, made the last eight of the women's singles with a 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2 win over Irina Spirlea of Romania and was joined by No. 4 Mary Pierce of France, a 6-2, 6-4 winner in just 80 minutes of baseline slugging over No. 10 Anke Huber of Germany, who double-faulted on match point.

Huber had won her last three meetings with Pierce, but was let down by her serve. She sent down eight double faults and dropped serve five times.

"I really wanted to win today. I tried not to think about the occasion, or who I was playing," Pierce said.

Huber was the last German left in either singles event. It is the first time since 1984 that no German has made it into the quarterfinals of singles action at any Grand Slam.

Defending women's champion Steffi Graf missed the event with a calf muscle injury.

"Anke should never have got into a shootout with Pierce," said Huber's coach Klaus Hofsaiss. "But now I think Mary has a good chance of winning the tournament."

Natasha Zvereva of Belarus rallied from a set and 1-3 down against Kyoko Nagatsuka Japan to win their fourth-round match 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

The No. 8 seed progressed to the quarterfinals for the first time in six appearances at the Open. Nagatsuka wilted late in the match, losing 11 of the last 12 games as Zvereva's aggression paid dividends.

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, is being played on rubberized rebound ace courts. It offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Jan. 29.

Australian Open Notebook

★ Angelica Gavaldon has an added incentive to win matches at the Australian Open — prize money to help pay for her shopping bills.

"I'm really bad with money," said Gavaldon, 21, who plays No. 3 seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the fourth round on Monday.

"I spend so much it's a joke. My dad has to take care of it otherwise I would have none. I love spending money on clothes."

Gavaldon, whose best Grand Slam performance was making the quarterfinals of the 1990 Australian Open, said she had set herself a



Larsson Magnus

target of rewarding herself each time she won a match at the Australian Open.

"There's a shop next to my hotel and after each win I treat myself to a piece of clothing," said Gavaldon, who planned on buying a blazer after her 2-6, 6-3, 8-6 third-round win over American Lori McNeil.

Gavaldon said she also had to win to cover the costs of long-distance phone calls to her family and boyfriend.

★ Arantxa's Opinion: French and U.S. Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario rates the Australian Open the hardest of the four Grand Slam tournaments to win.

"It's the hardest one because you have to be able to be strong in the hot weather and the other conditions that you maybe do not have at the other tournaments," said the Spaniard, who is top seed in the absence of injured world No. 1 Steffi Graf.

"You have to be ready because it can be an indoor tournament (when the retractable roof is closed), like has been happening so far."

★ Chang confident: Michael Chang is not afraid of facing world No. 1 Pete Sampras across a tennis net — and believes his fellow American's position at the top of the tennis mountain is

not impregnable. "No-one is going to be No. 1 forever," Chang said after his third round 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 win over Czech Martin Damm at the Australian Open tennis championships.

"What goes up, must come down."

Chang 22, the fifth seed, said the depth of men's tennis was increasing and it had helped turn him into a better rounded player.

"For me it creates more of a challenge," the 1989 French Open champion said.

★ Doobling up: Australian Tennis legends Ken Rosewall and Fred Stolle are among 16 veterans taking part in the champions doubles event at the Australian Open. Rosewall has drawn former Wimbledon doubles champion Peter McNamara as his partner, while Stolle, now based in north Miami Beach, Fla., will play with Vijay Amritraj of India.

The Stolle-Amritraj team unites rival broadcasters, Stolle for ESPN and Amritraj for the Rupert Murdoch-owned Star TV in Asia. McNamara and Rosewall are the top seeds, with South Africa's Bob Hewitt and Chris Lewis of New Zealand the second seeds.

★ Lindsay Davenport — the top-ranked American in the Australian Open

women's field — doesn't believe she's likely to win a Grand Slam title just yet.

"I wouldn't pick myself to win at any tournament," said Davenport. "To win here would take an awful lot of good luck and good management."

"Some people would have to lose and on a couple of days I'd have to play really well."

★ Delaite measures up: Frenchman Olivier Delaite takes on Michael Chang at the Australian Open in the fourth round of the Australian Open — and the match will be a rare experience for the American.

Chang seldom gets the chance to play against someone shorter than himself. Delaite is the shortest man left in the draw at (1.70m). Fifth-seeded Chang is not much taller at (1.75m).

★ Aussie moves: Six different venues have been used for the Australian Open, which is being staged for the 90th time this year.

The tournament has been held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and, strangely, New Zealand.

It was first held in 1905 as the Australasian Championships and was changed to the Australian Championships in 1927 and the

Australian Open in 1969. Melbourne, now the permanent home of the Open, is holding the tournament for the 40th time this year.

★ Greg's bullet: Canada's Greg Rusedski headed the big-serving brigade after the first week of the Australian Open.

Rusedski powered down a 130.5 miles per hour (210 kph) serve despite failing to Andre Agassi Saturday.

Australian Patrick Rafter, who next faces Agassi, is a clear second. The local hero has a top speed of 208 kph.

Germans Michael Stich and Lars Rehmann share the next fastest at 203 kph.

Among the women, Kristie Boogert from the Netherlands and American Debbie Graham are top of the league with serves of 172 kph.

★ Anke's excuse: Anke Huber of Germany had an explanation for her fourth-round loss to Mary Pierce at the Australian Open Sunday.

Huber had beaten Pierce in their last three meetings and was focusing too far ahead. "Maybe I just wanted too much," Huber said after he 6-2, 6-4 loss. "I knew that I had won the last three times and it was a good chance in a grand slam. Maybe I hurried too much."

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♥ K J 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ A 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Among the most amusing articles in bridge are those the late Sonny Moyse wrote about his wife Jackie, who produced the most amazing plays at the table. *The Bridge World* has collected some of the articles in a booklet, (Available from the magazine, 39 W. 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10023 \$4.95, plus \$1.50 postage & handling.) Here's a sample.
"The second round found us against Ozzie Jacoby and a charming partner I didn't know I opened

NOTICE OF SALE

Date of sale:
Tuesday, January 24, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location:
Warehouse near 7th Circle.
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Furniture, various office items and automobiles.

Conditions of sale:
This sale will be conducted by seal-bid. Bid forms will be available at time of sale. All items will be available for inspection at the time of sale. A deposit of 20 per cent of the total bid is required at the time of bid. All bidders will be notified and deposits refunded beginning on Wednesday, January 25, 1995. All property must be removed within 24 hours of notification. If not, a storage of JD 50 per day will be imposed. All bids must be deposited by 12:00 p.m. on January 25, 1995. All property is sold on an as-is, where-is, non-returnable basis for cash payment without refund or warranty.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tomba makes it seven in a row

WENGEN, Switzerland (AFP) — Italian ski king Alberto Tomba won his seventh straight World Cup slalom here in sensational style Sunday. The burly Italian was more than a second ahead of his nearest rival, Switzerland's Michael Gruenigen. Tomba timed 1min 33.89secs. over the two runs compared to Gruenigen's 1:35.21. Slovenia's Jure Kosir, whose 1:35.28 gave him third place, was quick to admit that no one could even come close to competing against the 28-year-old Italian idol who is poised to become the overall World Cup champion despite competing in only the slalom and giant slalom and ignoring the two speed races — the Super Giant and the downhill. "He is so strong, so flexible and powerful in the legs, he seems to be able to ski in a lower position than any of us," admitted Kosir. "The only way we are going to get near him is to work as hard as he does," added Kosir.

Papin goes under the knife

BONN (AFP) — Former European footballer of the year Jean-Pierre Papin will have another knee operation in southern French city Marseille on Monday. However the length of time till the Frenchman trains again with Bayern Munich teammates was not revealed.

Noah names Davis Cup team

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah named France's team for the Davis Cup match against the United States Sunday as Guy Forget, Cedric Pioline, Olivier Delaite and Arnaud Boetsch. The match gets underway in the Florida city of St. Petersburg on February 3 and Noah said that the team would train here until January 27. He named Jerome Golmard and Thierry Guardiola as hitting partners for the squad. Both had qualified for the tournament here. He made his announcement after Michael Chang of the United States, the fifth seed, had beaten Delaite 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in their fourth round match at the Australian Open. Noah had been highly critical earlier in the week of the way French players trained for Grand Slam tournaments such as the one here at Flinders Park and had remarked on how French players went out at major tournament in three sets.

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
Jim Carrey in THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Fifi Abdo, Mamduh Abdul Alim & Adel Adham in: The Banner Is Red Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: The Lion King will be shown at 5 p.m. every evening as well as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30		CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone in THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — THE BODYGUARD Shows: 3, 5		SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.		Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 in English Sunday	

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Cannes stayed fourth as nearest rivals Auxerre and Bordeaux both failed to win.

Auxerre came from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Metz and Bordeaux went down 2-1 in St. Etienne despite taking the lead.

Neither PSG nor Nantes were in action. Their match played 10 days ago and won 3-0 by Nantes, had been brought forward because the Parc Des Princes Stadium was the venue for Saturday's rugby union international between France and Wales.

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Danny Ferry missed a 15-footer but the six-foot-three (1.90 metres) Colter, who had tied game with 4.8 seconds left in regulation, tipped in the errant shot.

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Israel renews NPT refusal

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Sunday his government wanted to see complete peace in the Middle East before it would sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. Beilin's comment came after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz, who repeated Egypt's plea to make the region free of nuclear arms. The Israeli stand seemed to promise more tension with Egypt, which is refusing to renew its backing for the anti-nuclear pact being renegotiated this year unless Israel — believed to be the only nuclear power in the region — also signs the treaty (see page 2).

"Complete peace must come first, and then the next step is to sign the pact," said Mr. Beilin, who is here representing Israel in multilateral talks on the Middle East peace process.

Israel, which is believed to have about 200 warheads and has never signed the treaty, has said it fears countries like Iran and Iraq may soon develop nuclear capabilities.

Dr. Baz told a news conference after the meeting: "Egypt believes that all coun-

tries in the region including Israel should create a region free from all mass destruction weapons."

Egypt has been trying to persuade other Arab states also to refuse to sign the anti-nuclear pact, a move that has reportedly angered the Israelis.

Dr. Baz warned that Arab countries could obtain nuclear weapons themselves if Israel continued to possess a nuclear arsenal.

"Every action provokes a reaction and if Israel continues to possess the capacity to use nuclear weapons, that will make other parties work towards possessing the same capacities," Dr. Baz said after his talks with Mr. Beilin. "We will then find ourselves in a spiralling build-up," he said.

Dr. Baz added that Egypt would continue to work for "balanced arrangements" to rid the region of nuclear arms and to secure guarantees against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Amr Musa repeated Egypt's statement that it would refuse to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel also does. Mr. Musa made the statement after

meeting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau.

The United States has reportedly been putting pressure on Egypt to sign the treaty, but Mr. Pelletreau refused to comment on efforts to persuade the Egyptians to go along.

Mr. Pelletreau said his meeting with Mr. Musa concentrated on the peace process and plans for a summit in March between Mr. Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Last week, the well-known Egyptian journalist Mohamed Hassanain Heikal wrote that it was unlikely Egypt and other Arab states could maintain a consensus against the treaty because of pressure from the United States.

Mr. Beilin and Mr. Pelletreau were due to attend a meeting of the steering committee of the multilateral Middle East peace talks.

According to the Egyptian government weekly Rose Al Youssef, the Israeli secret service Mossad believes Egypt and Israel could go to war in eight to 10 years' time, despite the peace treaty they signed in 1979.

A Mossad report on "the possibilities of an Israeli-

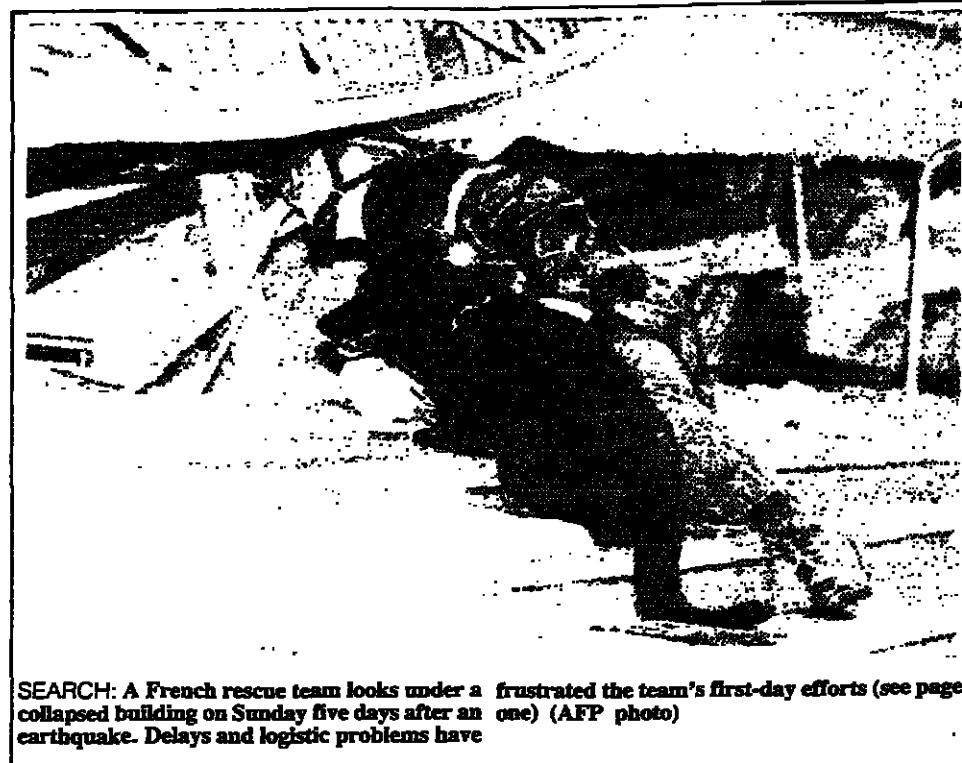
Arab war breaking out" was handed to the Israeli government, the weekly said. The report ruled out a war with Syria in the near future.

Meanwhile Tehran said that Israel — not Iran — is the real nuclear threat in the region as a final preparatory meeting for a world conference on the NPT begins at the U.N. Monday.

In a lengthy statement released on Friday, Iran accused Israel of resorting to "propaganda" to "try to justify its possession of nuclear weapons by unleashing a malicious campaign against Iran and its modest peaceful nuclear programme."

Tehran was apparently angered by a report two weeks ago in the New York Times that Iran was expected to explode a nuclear weapon within five years and that it could become a major regional threat. The daily had cited Israeli and U.S. sources for its report.

The NPT preparatory meeting — set for U.N. headquarters on Monday through Friday — is to set an agenda and procedures for the global conference on the treaty. That meeting is also set for New York and will run from April 17 to May 12.



SEARCH: A French rescue team looks under a frustrated team's first-day efforts (see page 5) collapsed building on Sunday five days after an earthquake. Delays and logistic problems have

Absence-plagued House plans means to ensure quorum

By Tareq Al Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The lack of quorum at meetings of the Lower House of Parliament's committees, and deputies' absence from meetings without excuse and arriving late for House meetings were the main issues under discussion Sunday at a closed-door House meeting which lasted for 3½ hours.

The meeting dwelt on ways to stop these practices after repeated complaints were raised by heads and rapporteurs of the House's various committees.

In view of the large number of members, it was difficult for some of the House committees to have the required quorum for holding meetings, especially that the House has four permanent committees and 10 temporary ones. Each committee has 22 members.

The lack of quorum leading to the cancellations of committees' meetings has been a frequent occurrence and has very often prompted committee chairmen to present resignations to House speakers. This has also caused House speakers to convene closed-door meetings to discuss the issue, but the problem is recurrent.

House Speaker Saad Hayel said after Sunday's meeting that the deputies realised the grave responsibility they have a large number of draft laws listed on their agendas.

Mr. Srour said that deputies are keen to protect national interests and realise that citizens are pinning great hopes on the enactment of the draft laws.

He said there was an agreement by the House members that the large number of members in each committee was the main reason leading for the lack of quorum and that they suggested cutting down membership in these committees.

The House faces a lot of work and unless the committees meet and discuss issues on their agendas no work could get done, Mr. Srour said.

He said deputies focused on the need to agree on a defined mechanism controlling the work of committees and speeding up their work.

Another issue under discussion, according to Mr. Srour, was the time for starting the House's two regular meetings every week during the Holy Month of Ramadan, which will start within a week's time.

Meetings on Wednesdays will continue to be held in the morning while there were suggestions to convene Sunday's meetings in the morning or after sunset, the traditional meal after sunset, said the House speaker, who added that no agreement was reached yet on when to hold Sunday sessions.

He told reporters that the House will have to reach a decision at its first meeting during the Holy Month.

Informal sources told the Jordan Times that the closed-door meeting also discussed the committees' work mechanisms and their functions in addition to whether the government adheres to resolutions by some of the House's committees, especially the Administrative Committee which deals with citizens' complaints and proposals on government work.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the deputies stressed the need for having an institutionalised mechanism requiring the government and the ministers to adhere to resolutions by the House.

The sources added that deputies usually rush to join House committees when they are set up either to run for the posts of chairmen or rapporteurs or to help in the

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Nabulsi reviews Jordanian, Arab record in fiscal reform

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said Sunday Jordan and three other Arab countries which are implementing economic restructuring programmes in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had significantly improved their performances in monetary and economic terms as a result of the programmes.

Dr. Nabulsi, addressing the final session of a two-day forum that brought together IMF experts, economic analysts and journalists to cover economic news, also said the Jordanian dinar was more stable than most other regional currencies, excluding those of some of the oil-producing Gulf countries.

Summing up a close scrutiny of the fiscal restructuring programmes under implementation in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, Dr. Nabulsi said the positive effects of the measures were felt in terms of controlled inflation and stability of currency while the country was also able to address its foreign debts.

The CBJ governor excluded Sudan, which is also implementing an IMF programme, from his summary, saying the peculiar features of that country did not allow for any general assessment.

Dr. Nabulsi conceded that the impact of the IMF programme on the poor is a strongly contested issue, with many complaining that the low-income group had come under additional hardships. He said there was no "real yardstick" to measure the actual negative or positive social consequences of the measures adopted under the programme — reduction of subsidies and increase in taxes.

But, as far as the Jordanian monetary authorities, determined to address the country's economic problems in terms of foreign exchange reserves and currency stability, are concerned, "the IMF programme has benefited the country in monetary and fiscal terms," said the CBJ governor.

Dr. Nabulsi said after the Jordanian economy was hit by problems in 1988-89 the Kingdom had no choice but to adopt a sweeping correction programme with or without the IMF. "We could have

gone to the creditors, but what would have happened to Jordan's creditworthiness" in the international market, he asked.

Without bringing into question the very methodology applied in determining inflation — a predetermined basket of indicators of mostly basic needs of the population — Jordan has come a long way from the late 80s when the economic growth of the country turned stagnant, he pointed out.

However, economic growth or social welfare is not a concern of the IMF, he said, adding that it was the exclusive domain of the concerned governments to adopt measures to address these aspects.

"These are matters beyond the IMF programme," he said. "The Fund is not there to create social development or address unemployment."

Dr. Nabulsi also conceded that market prices had gone up, but "not to the level of the decline in the value of the dinar," and said this was mainly due to the restructuring programme which restored the stability of the Jordanian dinar after the shock the currency received in 1988-89 when it lost more



Mohammad Nabulsi

than 50 per cent of its exchange value.

"Today, the Jordanian dinar is more stable than any other Arab currency except some of oil-producing countries," he said.

The "preservation" of the stability of the dinar after the 1988-89 devaluation had helped the poor to cope with the increase in market prices, he asserted.

There is no scientific basis to assess which of the four Arab countries fared better by implementing economic restructuring programmes, Dr. Nabulsi said, pointing out that the givens in the economies of the four countries and their past records varied too contrastingly to make any evaluation possible.

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Jordan, PLO discuss refugees

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials met at the Foreign Ministry here Sunday to draw up a joint position on refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Egyptian officials said. Under the 1993 Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles on autonomy, a four-way committee including Israeli officials is to discuss the fate of the Palestinians displaced during the war. Most of the refugees live in Jordan. The talks were attended by Palestinian Deputy Interior Minister Ahmad Tamimi and senior Egyptian and Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials — Badr Hamam and Abdel Karim Abu Al Hajja respectively.

Hammad meets Kuwait charge d'affaires

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad on Sunday had a meeting in his office with the charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti embassy in Jordan, Faisal Muhaimen. They discussed security matters of concern to Jordan and Kuwait.

Awn Khasawneh named state advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing Awn Shawkat Khasawneh as advisor to the state on matters relating to international law with a minister's rank effective Jan. 12, 1995. Dr. Khasawneh has been working for the Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan to ban militant training camps

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, in a move to fight sectarian violence, decided on Sunday to ban training camps run by militant Muslim groups, state television said. It said the decision was taken at a meeting of cabinet ministers and officials chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The meeting also decided to ban private religious schools from receiving direct donations from foreign sources, the television said. All donations would be channelled through the government, it added. Heavily armed militant groups of the majority Sunni and minority Shi'ite sects have clashed in Pakistan. The authorities say these groups train their militants in the use of arms at secret camps. The Sunni groups accuse Shi'ites of receiving help from neighbouring Iran. The Shi'ites accuse Sunni militants of being helped by Saudi Arabia. Both sides deny each other's charges.

Malaysia bans Muslim magazine

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has revoked the permit of a Muslim magazine which Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohammad said reviled Muslim nations and slandered the image of Muslim leaders, the New Sunday Times reported. The paper quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying the locally published magazine, Muslim Media International, used its articles to retard the growth of Muslim nations. Neither government officials nor anyone at the magazine was immediately available for comment on the newspaper report. Mr. Mahathir said the Home Ministry had received protests from Muslim countries which were unhappy with the magazine's editorial content, the newspaper said. "It was using democratic privileges to tarnish democracy itself. If such people are allowed to operate, Muslim nations will never progress," he was quoted as telling reporters on Saturday. The English-language Muslim Media International is published bimonthly in Malaysia and circulated to local and foreign subscribers.

Polisario to resume voter list help

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front, seeking independence in the Western Sahara, largely controlled by Morocco, said on Sunday it would shortly resume working on voter registration for a U.N.-referendum on the future of the area. The front had said on Saturday it has halted the identification process in protest at Morocco allegedly banning an elderly tribal chief from travelling to refugee camps controlled by Polisario in southwest Algeria to work with the U.N. identification commission. "The identification operation, interrupted temporarily, will resume shortly," the Polisario Front said in a statement obtained by Reuters in Tunis. The statement said Polisario leader Bachir Mustapha met on Saturday United Nations Secretary-General's representative Erik Jensen who assured him that the tribesman is alive and could later move to refugee camps.

Japan's prince, princess tour Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako watched bedouin women weave mats from sheep wool and camel hair Sunday. On the second day of their visit to the emirate. Sitting in a tent in the courtyard of the national museum, they also watched the traditional festive dance of Arda, performed by sword-waving men in long flowing robes and headaddresses. The royal couple, who arrived in Kuwait Saturday, visited the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research that was established in 1967 by a Japanese oil company. Their busy schedule included a visit to Kuwait Towers, the three-pointed structures by the Gulf waters that have become the symbol of modern Kuwait. Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako, his wife, met with the emirate's crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who said he hoped the visit would further strengthen ties between the two countries.

Iran urges Bahrain to show restraint

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Sunday urged Bahraini authorities to exercise restraint toward Shiite Muslim dissidents, breaking an official silence since trouble erupted in the Gulf archipelago last month.

"Bahrain should exercise self-restraint toward the opposition," deputy foreign minister Mohammad Hashemi told the daily Iran News.

"Showing military muscle against Bahraini people is an outdated solution" to the crisis, said Hashemi, brother of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The violence, unprecedented in Bahrain since it won independence in 1971, was triggered by the arrest in December of Shiite cleric Sheikh Ali Salami. The cleric was deported to the United Arab Emirates, and he later flew to London and asked for political asylum.

Bahraini opposition groups say 16 people were killed in the unrest, but the authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

The opposition-in-exile is calling for the restoration of parliament and the constitution, suspended by the Sunni-led Bahraini government since 1975.

Mr. Hashemi's remarks were the first by a senior Iranian official on the violence in Bahrain, although several clergymen have already condemned the crackdown.

Iran had "no involvement in Bahrain's domestic affairs," countering speculation that Tehran may have played a role.

Iran regarded Bahrain as one of its provinces before the country's independence and several Bahraini opposition groups are active in Tehran.

Frenchman killed in Algeria; group threatens journalists

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A Frenchman was shot dead in central Algiers Sunday, according to a reliable French source here.

Joseph Belaiche, 52, who was driving his car when he was attacked by gunmen in Port Said Square in the centre of the city, witnesses said.

The witnesses could not say how many gunmen there were, and they could not identify them.

Belaiche was the 26th Frenchman and the 76th foreigner to die in Algeria since September 1993, when Islamic fundamentalist militants warned all foreigners to leave the country, on pain of death.

The last fundamentalist attack on Frenchmen was on Dec. 27, when three French Franciscan priests and a Belgian colleague were gunned down in their mission in Tizi Ouzou south of Algiers in retaliation for the deaths of four fundamentalist hijackers.

The hijackers were killed by crack French troops at Marseille airport in southern France on Dec. 26 after they flew there aboard an Air France passenger jet they had taken over at Algiers airport on Dec. 24. Three hostages on the airliner had been murdered by the hijackers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Sunday's murder, but suspicion fell on the fundamentalists, who have been waging war on the military-backed secular government since January 1992, when it cancelled the second round of elections the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

An Algerian daily said a band of 30 guerrillas raided an Algerian mountain hotel, killing one worker and wounding the manager critically.

"They completely destroyed the hotel," the newspaper Liberté reported. It said guerrillas attacked the Arz hotel, 90 kilometres (60

miles) southeast of Algiers on Friday night.

The armed men gathered all hotel furniture in a courtyard and set it ablaze, the newspaper said.

Manager Hacen Kesraoui was rushed to hospital with gunshot wounds to the face. Latest security force statements, the only authorised official source of information on violence in Algeria, made no mention of the incident.

But Liberté, which is well-informed on security in the stronghold of Berbers opposing both the army-backed government and militants, said several bars and hotels were ransacked in previous militant attacks.

In a similar raid last June, guerrillas shot dead at least two people in a hotel in Les Eucalyptus, an eastern suburb of the capital Algiers. Officials did not report the incident then.

Hotels have been targeted by fundamentalist militants who are opposed to secular culture and the sale of alcohol in such establishments.

Algeria's militant Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has warned television and radio journalists in Algeria to stop working immediately or face attack, the international Arabic newspaper Al Hayat said.

It said the GIA, in a statement obtained by the newspaper, described journalists in Algeria as "hired media who justify the crimes and cover up the evils" of Algerian authorities.

At least 30 journalists have been killed in the country since June 1993. Three of them have died this month.

"The legitimate position of the GIA towards radio and television journalists is the same as towards apostates, and it calls on all journalists working in ... television and radio to halt immediately," Al Hayat quoted the statement by the hardline GIA as saying.

"If not, the GIA will continue to hit with strength all those who refuse to respond immediately," it said.

COLUMN

Miracle baby born amid Kobe quake havoc

KOBE, Japan (R) — Miss Ohnishi, now six days old and yet to be given a first name, must be one of the luckiest toddlers alive. Her 40-year-old mother, who declined to be identified, went into labour Tuesday at Kobe city general hospital at the very moment an earthquake ripped through the heart of the city, killing nearly 5,000 people.

Japan's biggest quake in half a century also sent the doctor delivering the baby, Hideo Takashima, 63, crashing to the floor. Dr. Takashima broke his left wrist but nevertheless picked himself up and struggled on, delivering the baby at 7:30 a.m. (10:30 GMT on January 16), about 90 minutes after the western port city was hit.